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Item 34 of the provisional agenda*
Prevention of armed conflict

Security Council
Seventy-third year

Letter dated 12 September 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon the instructions of my Government, I am transmitting herewith the record of the ceasefire violations by the Azerbaijani armed forces along the State border of the Republic of Armenia during the month of August 2018 (see annex I).**

I am also transmitting herewith the ceasefire violations registered by the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh Republic) during the month of August 2018 (see annex II).**

I kindly request that the present letter and its annexes be circulated as a document of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mher **Margaryan**
Permanent Representative

* A/73/150.
** The annexes are being circulated in the language of submission only.

18-15324 (E) 190918

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Annex I to the letter dated 12 September 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Violations of the ceasefire by the armed forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan along the State border with the Republic of Armenia, 1–31 August 2018

Date	*Direction*	*Incidents*	*Type of weapons/shots*
1 August	**Tavush and Vayots Dzor regions**	**8**	Small arms and light weapons: 45
	Aygedzor	2	Large-calibre sniper weapons: 40 (Yelpin)
	Chinari	3	Large-calibre machine guns: 151
	Aygepar	1	
	Vazashen	1	
	Yelpin	1	
2 August	**Tavush, Gegharkunik, Vayots Dzor and Ararat regions**	**7**	Small arms and light weapons: 240 Small-calibre sniper weapons:
	Chinari	1	Large-calibre sniper weapons: 70 (Yelpin 60; Areni 10)
	Jil	1	Large-calibre machine guns: 465
	Yelpin	2	
	Areni	1	
	Zangakatun	2	
3 August	**Tavush and Ararat regions**	**7**	Small arms and light weapons: 91
	Chinari	1	Small-calibre sniper weapons: 7
	Aygedzor	1	
	Paravakar	1	
	Vazashen	3	
	Tigranashen	1	
4 August	**Gegharkunik region**	**2**	Small arms and light weapons: 150
	Jil	2	Small-calibre sniper weapons: 35 (Jil)
5 August	**Ararat region**	**1**	Small arms and light weapons: 15
	Tigranashen	1	Small-calibre sniper weapons: 10
6 August	**Tavush, Gegharkunik and Ararat regions**	**3**	Small arms and light weapons: 305 Large-calibre machine guns: 20
	Aygedzor	1	
	Artanish	1	
	Yeraskh	1	
7 August	**Vayots Dzor and Ararat regions**	**2**	Small arms and light weapons: 48
	Areni	1	
	Zangakatun	1	
8 August	**Gegharkunik, Vayots Dzor and Ararat regions**	**3**	Small arms and light weapons: 42 Large-calibre machine guns: 25
	Vahan	1	
	Areni	1	
	Zangakatun	1	
9 August	**Tavush and Gegharkunik regions**	**2**	Small arms and light weapons: 20

Date	*Direction*	*Incidents*	*Type of weapons/shots*
	Chinari	1	
	Jil	1	
10 August	**Tavush and Gegharkunik regions**	**13**	Small arms and light weapons: 185
	Aygedzor	1	Small-calibre sniper weapons: 40
	Chinari	7	Large-calibre sniper weapons: 1 (Chinari)
	Paravakar	1	Large-calibre machine guns: 93
	Vazashen	1	
	Kirants	1	
	Barekamavan	1	
	Jil	1	
11 August	**Vayots Dzor and Ararat regions**	**9**	Small arms and light weapons: 230
	Areni	1	Small-calibre sniper weapons: 45
	Khndzorut	1	Large-calibre sniper weapons: 65 (Zangakatun)
	Zangakatun	7	Large-calibre machine guns: 150
12 August	**Tavush, Gegharkunik, Vayots Dzor and Ararat regions**	**11**	Small arms and light weapons: 294
			Small-calibre sniper weapons: 34
	Movses	2	Large-calibre sniper weapons: (Zangakatun 240; Jivanavan 15; Barekamavan 3)
	Barekamavan	1	Large-calibre machine guns: 80
	Jivanavan	1	
	Yelpin	1	
	Zangakatun	6	
13 August	**Tavush, Gegharkunik and Ararat regions**	**6**	Small arms and light weapons: 10
	Chinari	1	Large-calibre sniper weapons: 80 (Zangakatun 50; Jivanavan 30)
	Movses	1	Large-calibre machine guns: 70
	Aygepar	1	
	Jivanavan	1	
	Yeraskh	1	
	Zangakatun	1	
14 August	**Tavush and Ararat regions**	**9**	Small arms and light weapons: 2
	Chinari	3	Small-calibre sniper weapons: 11
	Movses	2	Large-calibre sniper weapons: 135 (Movses 5; Zangakatun 130)
	Zangakatun	4	
15 August	**Tavush, Gegharkunik and Ararat regions**	**7**	Small arms and light weapons: 35
	Paravakar	1	Large-calibre sniper weapons: 143 (Paravakar 12; Tigranashen 3; Zangakatun 128)
	Vazashen	1	Large-calibre machine guns: 40
	Jivanavan	1	
	Zangakatun	3	
	Tigranashen	1	
16 August	**Gegharkunik, Vayots Dzor and Ararat regions**	**3**	Small arms and light weapons: 37
	Chambarak	1	Large-calibre sniper weapons: 13 (Areni 8; Zangakatun 5)
	Areni	1	
	Zangakatun	1	

Date	*Direction*	*Incidents*	*Type of weapons/shots*
17 August	**Tavush, Vayots Dzor and Ararat regions**	**14**	Small arms and light weapons: 591 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 26
	Chinari	1	Large-calibre sniper weapons: 70 (Zangakatun)
	Movses	2	Large-calibre machine guns: 175
	Paravakar	1	
	Kayan	3	
	Sevkar	1	
	Voskepar	1	
	Areni	1	
	Yelpin	2	
	Zangakatun	2	
18 August	**Tavush, Syunik, Gegharkunik, Vayots Dzor and Ararat regions**	**20**	Small arms and light weapons: 631 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 50
	Aygedzor	2	Large-calibre sniper weapons: 278 (Pambak 13; Daranak 30; Zangakatun 234; Tigranashen 1)
	Chinari	2	Large-calibre machine guns: 135
	Barekamavan	1	
	Chapni	1	
	Pambak	1	
	Daranak	1	
	Vahan	1	
	Bardzruni	1	
	Brnakot	1	
	Kajaran	1	
	Areni	1	
	Yelpin	1	
	Zangakatun	5	
	Tigranashen	1	
19 August	**Tavush, Gegharkunik, Syunik and Ararat regions**	**14**	Small arms and light weapons: 1557 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 50
	Chinari	1	Large-calibre sniper weapons: 108 (Zangakatun)
	Areni	2	Large-calibre machine guns: 200
	Yelpin	2	
	Yeraskh	2	
	Zangakatun	5	
	Tigranashen	2	
20 August	**Tavush and Gegharkunik regions**	**3**	Small arms and light weapons: 5
	Chinari	2	Small-calibre sniper weapons: 3
	Jivanavan	1	
21 August	**Tavush, Gegharkunik and Ararat regions**	**5**	Small arms and light weapons: 40
	Chinari	1	Large-calibre sniper weapons: 25 (Chinari 1; Zangakatun 24)
	Movses	1	
	Areni	1	
	Zangakatun	2	

Date	*Direction*	*Incidents*	*Type of weapons/shots*
22 August	**Tavush, Vayots Dzor and Ararat regions**	**10**	Small arms and light weapons: 272
			Small-calibre sniper weapons: 76
	Aygedzor	1	Large-calibre sniper weapons: 61 (Sotk 10; Areni 50; Tigranashen 1)
	Chinari	1	
	Movses	3	
	Kolagir	1	
	Sotk	1	
	Areni	1	
	Chiva	1	
	Tigranashen	1	
23 August	**Tavush, Gegharkunik and Syunik regions**	**9**	Small arms and light weapons: 61
			Small-calibre sniper weapons: 8
	Chinari	2	Large-calibre machine guns: 20
	Kayan	2	
	Koti	1	
	Jil	1	
	Geghamasar	1	
	Chambarak	1	
	Kajaran	1	
24 August	**Tavush, Vayots Dzor and Syunik regions**	**4**	Small arms and light weapons: 306
			Large-calibre sniper weapons: 25 (Areni)
	Chinari	1	Large-calibre machine guns: 20
	Kolagir	1	
	Areni	1	
	Kajaran	1	
25 August	**Tavush, Gegharkunik, Vayots Dzor and Ararat regions**	**11**	Small arms and light weapons: 652
			Small-calibre sniper weapons: 32
	N.Karmiraghbyur	1	Large-calibre sniper weapons: 6 (Avazan)
	Vazashen	1	
	Sevkar	1	
	Avazan	2	
	Vahan	2	
	Chiva	1	
	Zangakatun	3	
26 August	**Tavush, Gegharkunik, Vayots Dzor and Ararat regions**	**15**	Small arms and light weapons: 484
			Small-calibre sniper weapons: 88
	Aygedzor	2	Large-calibre sniper weapons: 328 (Geghamasar 8; Vahan 10; Chiva 10; Areni 150; Yelpin 150)
	Geghamasar	3	
	Kakhakn	1	Large-calibre machine guns: 215
	Vahan	1	
	Chiva	1	
	Areni	1	
	Yelpin	3	
	Zangakatun	2	
	Paruyr Sevak	1	

Date	*Direction*	*Incidents*	*Type of weapons/shots*
27 August	**Tavush, Gegharkunik, Vayots Dzor and Ararat regions**	**5**	Small arms and light weapons: 138 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 10
	Aygedzor	1	Large-calibre sniper weapons: 20 (Geghamasar 15; Zangakatun 5)
	Geghamasar	1	
	Chiva	1	
	Zangakatun	1	
	Yeraskh	1	
28 August	**Tavush, Gegharkunik, Vayots Dzor and Ararat regions**	**8**	Small arms and light weapons: 115 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 25
	Aygedzor	1	Large-calibre sniper weapons: 55 (Areni 15; Zangakatun 40)
	Vahan	1	Large-calibre machine guns: 15
	Areni	1	
	Zangakatun	2	
	Yeraskh	3	
29 August	**Tavush and Ararat regions**	**6**	Small arms and light weapons: 139
	Aygedzor	1	Small-calibre sniper weapons: 30
	Areni	2	Large-calibre sniper weapons: 45 (Areni 43; Paruyr Sevak 2)
	Chiva	1	Large-calibre machine guns: 40
	Paruyr Sevak	1	
	Zangakatun	1	
30 August	**Tavush, Vayots Dzor and Ararat regions**	**6**	Small arms and light weapons: 21 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 5
	Chinari	1	Large-calibre sniper weapons: 110 (Areni)
	Kayan	1	Large-calibre machine guns: 110
	Kolagir	1	
	Areni	1	
	Paruyr Sevak	2	
31 August	**Tavush and Ararat regions**	**16**	Small arms and light weapons: 1255
	Aygedzor	3	Large-calibre sniper weapons: 4 (Paruyr Sevak)
	Chinari	3	Large-calibre machine guns: 50
	N.Karmiraghbyur	3	
	Aygepar	5	
	Dovegh	1	
	Paruyr Sevak	1	

Annex II to the letter dated 12 September 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Violations of the ceasefire by the armed forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the line of contact with the Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh Republic), 1–31 August 2018

Date	*Direction*	*Incidents*	*Type of weapons/shots*
1 August	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	30	Small arms and light weapons: 374 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 3 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 25 (Karakhanbeyli: 7; Ashaghi Abdurakhmanli: 1; Marzili: 4; Kengerli: 13) Large-calibre machine guns: 51
2 August	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	17	Small arms and light weapons: 174 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 9 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 17 (Karvend: 4; Gjulistan: 13)
3 August	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	20	Small arms and light weapons: 331 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 10 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 1 (Kengerli: 1)
4 August	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	21	Small arms and light weapons: 192 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 9 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 5 (Gjulistan)
5 August	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	12	Small arms and light weapons: 233 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 10
6 August	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	37	Small arms and light weapons: 249 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 14 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 42 (Gjulistan)
7 August	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	16	Small arms and light weapons: 80 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 14
8 August	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	27	Small arms and light weapons: 293 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 7 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 1 (Sarijanli)
9 August	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	20	Small arms and light weapons: 311 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 10 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 3 (Verin Chaylu)
10 August	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	19	Small arms and light weapons: 254 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 9 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 2 (Korgan) Large-calibre machine guns: 10
11 August	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	23	Small arms and light weapons: 251 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 21 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 2 (Shikhlyar)

Date	*Direction*	*Incidents*	*Type of weapons/shots*
12 August	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	19	Small arms and light weapons: 137
			Small-calibre sniper weapons: 28
13 August	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	17	Small arms and light weapons: 205
			Small-calibre sniper weapons: 14
			Large-calibre sniper weapons: 1 (Mehdili)
14 August	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	25	Small arms and light weapons: 123
			Small-calibre sniper weapons: 9
			Large-calibre sniper weapons: 11 (Shikhlyar: 2; Jraberd: 3; Gjulistan: 6)
15 August	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	14	Small arms and light weapons: 111
			Small-calibre sniper weapons: 15
			Large-calibre machine guns: 24
16 August	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	14	Small arms and light weapons: 87
			Small-calibre sniper weapons: 23
			Large-calibre machine guns: 37
17 August	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	31	Small arms and light weapons: 440
			Small-calibre sniper weapons: 17
			Large-calibre sniper weapons: 2 (Shikhlyar)
18 August	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	19	Small arms and light weapons: 102
			Small-calibre sniper weapons: 6
			Large-calibre sniper weapons: 5 (Shikhlyar)
			Hand Grenades: 2
19 August	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	20	Small arms and light weapons: 300
			Small-calibre sniper weapons: 5
20 August	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	21	Small arms and light weapons: 213
			Small-calibre sniper weapons: 5
			Grenade launchers: 2
21 August	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	21	Small arms and light weapons: 137
			Small-calibre sniper weapons: 8
			Large-calibre machine guns: 15
22 August	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	19	Small arms and light weapons: 169
23 August	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	32	Small arms and light weapons: 766
			Small-calibre sniper weapons: 15
			Large-calibre sniper weapons: 16 (Jraberd: 14; Gjulistan: 2)
			Large-calibre machine guns: 210
24 August	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	20	Small arms and light weapons: 125
			Small-calibre sniper weapons: 38
25 August	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	22	Small arms and light weapons: 253
			Small-calibre sniper weapons: 4
			Large-calibre sniper weapons: 19 (Ashaghi Abdurakhmanli)
26 August	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	23	Small arms and light weapons: 201
			Small-calibre sniper weapons: 4

Date	*Direction*	*Incidents*	*Type of weapons/shots*
			Large-calibre sniper weapons: 12 (Shikhlyar)
27 August	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	6	Small arms and light weapons: 47
			Small-calibre sniper weapons: 6
28 August	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	16	Small arms and light weapons: 140
			Small-calibre sniper weapons: 7
			Large-calibre sniper weapons: 6 (Nuzger: 2; Ashaghi Abdurakhmanli: 4)
29 August	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	21	Small arms and light weapons: 240
			Small-calibre sniper weapons: 3
30 August	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	17	Small arms and light weapons: 216
			Small-calibre sniper weapons: 17
31 August	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan	36	Small arms and light weapons: 521
			Small-calibre sniper weapons: 14
			Large-calibre sniper weapons: 11 (Shikhlyar: 7; Seysulan: 4)
			Large-calibre machine guns:

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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Security Council
Seventy-third year

Letter dated 11 September 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the records of violations of the ceasefire by the Republic of Armenia in June, July and August 2018 (see annexes I, II and III).*

During the reporting periods, the armed forces of Armenia violated the ceasefire regime 2,701, 2,745 and 2,280 times, respectively, and continued to use large-calibre guns and heavy weaponry from their positions in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan and in the territory of the Republic of Armenia.

The continuous military occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan by the armed forces of Armenia, accompanied by ethnic cleansing and the displacement of more than 1 million Azerbaijanis, is the major impediment to peace, security and development in the region. A political solution to the conflict can only be reached after the complete and unconditional withdrawal of the Armenian armed forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 35 and 40, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yashar **Aliyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* The annexes are being circulated in the language of submission only.

18-15398 (E) 190918

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Annex I to the letter dated 11 September 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Violations of the ceasefire by the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia for June 2018*

Dates	*Direction (locality)*	*Weapons used*	*Number of ceasefire violations*	*Casualties and damages*
1–31 July	**Aghdam district, Azerbaijan**			
	Afatly village	AK	6	
	Ahmadali village	AK	5	
	Ahmadaghali village	AK/AKM	38	
	Ayag Garvand village	AK	13	
	Bash Garvand village	AK/AKM	36	
	Chamanly village	AK/AKM	29	
	Chiragly village	AK	29	
	Evoghlu village	AK	6	
	Garadaghli village	AK	5	
	Mahrizli village	AK/AKM	3	
	Mammadbaghirly village	AK	5	
	Mirashilly village	AK/AKM	9	
	Opposite positions	AK/AKM	53	
	Orta Garvand	AK	17	
	Saryjaly village	AK	16	
	Shahvalilar village	AKM	6	
	Yuzbashily village	AK	8	
	Zangishaly village	AK/AKM	17	
	Aghjabadi district, Azerbaijan			
	Gyamaddynly village	AK	98	
	Minakhorlu village	AK/AKM	52	
	Dashkasan district, Azerbaijan			
	Alkhanchalli village	AKM/DShK	5	
	Tazakand village	AKM	2	
	Zivilyan village	AKM	8	
	Fizuli district, Azerbaijan			
	Alkhanli village	AK/AKM	77	
	Ashaghi Abdurrahmanli village	AK/AKM	76	
	Horadiz village	AK	37	
	Opposite positions	AK/AKM	305	
	Shukurbayli village	AK/AKM	76	
	Gazakh district, Azerbaijan			
	Alibayramli village	AK/AKM	3	
	Ashaghi Askipara village	AKM	10	

* Settlements of the Republic of Azerbaijan included in this information are under occupation by the Republic of Armenia or situated close to the fire point areas.

Dates	*Direction (locality)*	*Weapons used*	*Number of ceasefire violations*	*Casualties and damages*
	Bala Jafarli village	AK/AKM	47	
	Boyuk Jafarli village	AKM	2	
	Dashsalahli village	AKM	3	
	Farahli village	AK	4	
	Jafarli village	AK/AKM	13	
	Gaymagly village	AK/AKM/DShK	37	
	Gushchu Ayrim village	AK/AKM/DShK/OSV	52	
	Gyzylhajili village	AK/DShK	30	
	Kamarli village	AKM/PKM	14	
	Kohna Gyshlag village	AKM	9	
	Mazam village	AKM	7	
	Musakoy village	AK/AKM	26	
	Gedebey district, Azerbaijan			
	Ayridara village	AKM	6	
	Ayrivang village	AKM	15	
	Galakand village	AKM/DShK	10	
	Goyali village	AKM	4	
	Mutudara village	AK/AKM/DShK	33	
	Novoivanovka village	AKM	1	
	Zamanly village	AK/AKM/DShK	20	
	Goranboy district, Azerbaijan			
	Balligaya village	AKM	5	
	Bash Gishlag village	AK/AKM/DShK	15	
	Gargujag village	AK/AKM	12	
	Gulustan village	AK/AKM/DShK	57	
	Kharkhaput village	AK/AKM	16	
	Opposite positions	AKM/DShK	37	
	Tapgaragoyunlu village	AK/AKM	92	
	Unnamed heights	AK/AKM	6	
	Unnamed positions	AK/AKM/DShK	45	
	Yenikand village	AKM	14	
	Yukhari Agjakand village	AKM	9	
	Zeyva village	AKM	7	
	Goygol district, Azerbaijan			
	Kurdalylar village	AKM	14	
	Pirverdilar village	AKM	2	
	Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan			
	Ahmadalilar village	AK	4	
	Jojug Marjanli village	AK/AKM/DShK	80	
	Lala Ilahi heights	AK/AKM	78	
	Opposite positions	AKM	5	
	Khojavand district, Azerbaijan			
	Opposite positions	AK/AKM/DShK	174	

Dates	*Direction (locality)*	*Weapons used*	*Number of ceasefire violations*	*Casualties and damages*
	Unnamed heights	AK	11	
	Tartar district, Azerbaijan			
	Borsunlu village	AK/AKM	9	
	Chayly village	AK/AKM	63	
	Damirchilar village	AK/AKM	14	
	Gapanli village	AK/AKM	104	
	Gaynag village	AK	9	
	Gazyan village	AK/AKM	67	
	Hasangaya village	AK/AKM/DShK	54	
	Karmiravan village	AK/AKM	35	
	Opposite positions	AK/AKM/DShK	94	
	Seyidimli village	AK	9	
	Shurabad village	AK	9	
	Tazakand village	AK/AKM	69	
	Tovuz district, Azerbaijan			
	Aghdam village	AK/AKM	43	
	Aghbulag village	AKM/DShK	8	
	Alibayli village	AK	1	
	Asryk Jirdakhan village	AKM	1	
	Garalar village	AKM/DShK	11	
	Kokhanaby village	AKM	4	
	Munjuglu village	AK/AKM/DShK	31	

Abbreviations: AK, Kalashnikov assault rifle; AKM, modernized Kalashnikov assault rifle; DShK, heavy machine gun; OSV, semi-automatic sniper rifle; PKM, modernized Kalashnikov machine gun.

Annex II to the letter dated 11 September 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Violations of the ceasefire by the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia for July 2018*

Dates	*Direction (locality)*	*Weapons used*	*Number of ceasefire violations*	*Casualties and damages*
1–31 July	**Aghdam district, Azerbaijan**			
	Afatly village	AK	2	
	Ahmadaghali village	AK/AKM	32	
	Ayag Garvand village	AK	16	
	Bash Garvand village	AK/AKM/DShK	42	
	Chamanly village	AK/AKM	22	
	Chiragly village	AK/AKM	34	
	Evoghlu village	AK/AKM	6	
	Mahrizli village	AK/AKM	6	
	Mammadbaghirly village	AK	5	
	Opposite positions	AK/AKM/DShK	153	
	Orta Garvand	AKM/DShK	3	
	Saryjaly village	AK/AKM	19	
	Shahvalilar village	AKM	2	
	Shurabad village	AK	4	
	Yuzbashily village	AK	5	
	Zangishaly village	AK/AKM	13	
	Aghjabadi district, Azerbaijan			
	Gyamaddynly village	AK/AKM	102	
	Minakhorlu village	AK/AKM	75	
	Dashkasan district, Azerbaijan			
	Alkhanchalli village	AKM/DShK	4	
	Opposite positions	AK	1	
	Tazakand village	AKM/DShK	3	
	Zivilyan village	AK/AKM/DShK	13	
	Fizuli district, Azerbaijan			
	Alkhanli village	AK	51	
	Ashaghi Abdurrahmanli village	AK/AKM	104	
	Horadiz village	AK	53	
	Opposite positions	AK/AKM	75	
	Shukurbayli village	AK/AKM/OSV	65	
	Gazakh district, Azerbaijan			
	Ashaghi Askipara village	AKM	7	
	Bala Jafarli village	AK/AKM	59	
	Farahli village	AK/AKM	9	

* Settlements of the Republic of Azerbaijan included in this information are under occupation by the Republic of Armenia or situated close to the fire point areas.

Dates	*Direction (locality)*	*Weapons used*	*Number of ceasefire violations*	*Casualties and damages*
	Jafarli village	AK/AKM/OSV	6	
	Gaymagly village	AK/AKM/DShK	66	
	Gushchu Ayrim village	AKM/DShK	34	
	Gyzylhajili village	AK/AKM/DShK	44	
	Kamarli village	AK/AKM/DShK	20	
	Kohna Gyshlag village	AKM	10	
	Mazam village	AK/AKM	10	
	Musakoy village	AK/AKM	36	
	Gedebey district, Azerbaijan			
	Ayrivang village	AK/AKM	7	
	Dordlar village	AK/AKM/60-mm M	26	
	Galakand village	AKM	17	
	Garavallar village	AK/AKM/DShK	9	
	Goyali village	AKM/DShK	12	
	Mutudara village	AK/AKM	35	
	Novoivanovka village	AKM	2	
	Zamanly village	AK/AKM/DShK/60-mm M	27	
	Goranboy district, Azerbaijan			
	Balligaya village	AKM	8	
	Bash Gishlag village	AK/AKM/DShK/NSV/OSV	29	
	Garachinar village	AKM/DShK	8	
	Gargujag village	AKM	13	
	Gulustan village	AKM/DShK	89	
	Kharkhaput village	AK/AKM	33	
	Opposite positions	AK/AKM/DShK	64	
	Tapgaragoyunlu village	AK/AKM	81	
	Unnamed heights	AKM/OSV	19	
	Unnamed positions	AK/AKM/DShK	26	
	Yenikand village	AKM	23	
	Yukhari Agjakand village	AKM/DShK	16	
	Zeyva village	AK/AKM/DShK	15	
	Goygol district, Azerbaijan			
	Kurdalylar village	AKM/DShK/NSV	19	
	Opposite positions	DShK	1	
	Pirverdilar village	AKM	3	
	Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan			
	Chakhirli village	AKM	4	
	Jojug Marjanli village	AK	54	
	Lala Ilahi heights	AK	69	
	Opposite positions	AK/AKM	12	
	Khojavand district, Azerbaijan			
	Opposite positions	AK/AKM	156	
	Unnamed heights	AK	13	

Dates	*Direction (locality)*	*Weapons used*	*Number of ceasefire violations*	*Casualties and damages*
	Tartar district, Azerbaijan			
	Borsunlu village	AK/AKM	51	
	Chayly village	AK/AKM	75	
	Gapanli village	AK/AKM	57	
	Gazyan village	AK/AKM	90	
	Hasangaya village	AK/AKM/DShK	81	
	Husanli village	AK	6	
	Karmiravan village	AK/AKM	37	
	Opposite positions	AK/AKM	64	
	Seyidimli village	AK	4	
	Tazakand village	AK/AKM	53	
	Unnamed positions	AK	4	
	Tovuz district, Azerbaijan			
	Aghdam village	AK/AKM	45	
	Aghbulag village	AKM	14	
	Alibayli village	AK	1	
	Asryk Jirdakhan village	AKM	7	
	Garalar village	AK/AKM/DShK	15	
	Kokhanaby village	AK/AKM	8	
	Munjuglu village	AK/AKM	32	

Abbreviations: AK, Kalashnikov assault rifle; AKM, modernized Kalashnikov assault rifle; DShK, heavy machine gun; NSV, 12.7-mm heavy machine gun; OSV, semi-automatic sniper rifle; 60-mm M, mortar.

Annex III to the letter dated 11 September 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Violations of the ceasefire by the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia for August 2018*

Dates	*Direction (locality)*	*Weapons used*	*Number of ceasefire violations*	*Casualties and damages*
1–31 August	**Aghdam district, Azerbaijan**			
	Afatly village	AK	6	
	Ahmadali village	AK	5	
	Ahmadaghali village	AK/AKM	15	
	Ayag Garvand village	AK/AKM/DShK	44	
	Bash Garvand village	AK/AKM	23	
	Chamanly village	AK/AKM	24	
	Chiragly village	AK	33	
	Evoghlu village	AK/AKM	6	
	Garadaghli village	AK	10	
	Mahrizli village	AK/AKM	12	
	Mammadbaghirly village	AK	12	
	Mirashilly village	AK	3	
	Opposite positions	AK/AKM	123	
	Orta Garvand	AK/AKM/DShK	15	
	Saryjaly village	AK/AKM	26	
	Shahvalilar village	AKM	6	
	Yuzbashily village	AK	16	
	Zangishaly village	AK/AKM/DShK	19	
	Aghjabadi district, Azerbaijan			
	Gyamaddynly village	AK/AKM	111	
	Minakhorlu village	AK/AKM	84	
	Dashkasan district, Azerbaijan			
	Alkhanchalli village	AKM/DShK	5	
	Tazakand village	AKM	3	
	Zivilyan village	AK/AKM/DShK	17	
	Fizuli district, Azerbaijan			
	Alkhanli village	AK/AKM	33	
	Ashaghi Abdurrahmanli village	AK/AKM	71	
	Garagantapa village	AK/AKM	2	
	Horadiz village	AK/AKM	46	
	Shukurbayli village	AK/AKM	46	
	Gazakh district, Azerbaijan			
	Ashaghi Askipara village	AK/AKM	2	
	Aslanbayli village	AK/AKM	5	

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Dates	*Direction (locality)*	*Weapons used*	*Number of ceasefire violations*	*Casualties and damages*
	Bala Jafarli village	AK/AKM/DShK	27	
	Farahli village	AK	1	
	Jafarli village	AK/AKM	12	
	Gaymagly village	AK/AKM/DShK/OSV	10	
	Gushchu Ayrim village	AKM/DShK	12	
	Gyzylhajili village	AK/AKM	38	
	Kohna Gyshlag village	AKM	6	
	Mazam village	AK/AKM	13	
	Musakoy village	AK/AKM	20	
	Gedebey district, Azerbaijan			
	Ayrivang village	AK/AKM	3	
	Dordlar village	AK/AKM	6	
	Galakand village	AKM/DShK	1	
	Garavallar village	AKM/DShK	2	
	Goyali village	AK/AKM	9	
	Mutudara village	AK/AKM/DShK	26	
	Zamanly village	AKM	15	
	Goranboy district, Azerbaijan			
	Balligaya village	AKM	6	
	Bash Gishlag village	AKM/DShK	23	
	Gargujag village	AK/AKM	13	
	Gulustan village	AK/AKM/DShK	56	
	Kharkhaput village	AK/AKM	20	
	Opposite positions	AKM/DShK	73	
	Tapgaragoyunlu village	AK/AKM	88	
	Unnamed heights	AK/AKM/DShK	17	
	Unnamed positions	AK/AKM	16	
	Yenikand village	AKM/DShK	27	
	Yukhari Agjakand village	AKM	15	
	Zeyva village	AKM	34	
	Goygol district, Azerbaijan			
	Azgilli village	AKM/DShK	3	
	Kurdalylar village	AKM/DShK/NSV	26	
	Pirverdilar village	NSV	1	
	Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan			
	Ahmadalilar village	AK	23	
	Jojug Marjanli village	AK	49	
	Lala Ilahi heights	AK/AKM/DShK	80	
	Opposite positions	AK/AKM	19	
	Khojavand district, Azerbaijan			
	Opposite positions	AK/AKM/DShK	126	
	Unnamed heights	AK	16	
	Tartar district, Azerbaijan			

Dates	*Direction (locality)*	*Weapons used*	*Number of ceasefire violations*	*Casualties and damages*
	Borsunlu village	AK/AKM	37	
	Chayly village	AK/AKM	66	
	Gapanli village	AK/AKM	99	
	Gaynag village	AK	5	
	Gazyan village	AK/AKM	57	
	Hasangaya village	AK/AKM	41	
	Husanli village	AK	11	
	Jamilly village	AK	7	
	Karmiravan village	AK/AKM/OSV	26	
	Opposite positions	AK/AKM	47	
	Seyidimli village	AK	5	
	Tazakand village	AK/AKM	82	
	Tovuz district, Azerbaijan			
	Aghdam village	AK/AKM	12	
	Aghbulag village	AKM	5	
	Garalar village	AK/AKM/DShK	5	
	Kokhanaby village	AK/AKM	8	
	Munjuglu village	AK/AKM	22	

Abbreviations: AK, Kalashnikov assault rifle; AKM, modernized Kalashnikov assault rifle; DShK, heavy machine gun; NSV, 12.7-mm heavy machine gun; OSV, semi-automatic sniper rifle.

United Nations S/2018/844

Security Council

Distr.: General
17 September 2018
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 13 September 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I refer to my letter of 4 September 2018 to the President of the Security Council (ref.: PM/2018/360), which describes how armed terrorist groups abducted a number of innocent Syrian civilians, whom they would use to stage a fabricated chemical attack or to carry out an act of terrorism using toxic chemical substances. They would then accuse the Syrian Arab Army of carrying out the attack, thus providing the Governments of the United States of America, Britain and France with a pretext for another military attack against my country, Syria. I now wish to bring the following ominous facts to your attention:

The armed terrorist groups active in Idlib governorate and in the Aleppo countryside have abducted a number of Syrian civilians and children in those areas. The facts, along with circumstantial evidence, make it highly likely that the armed terrorist groups will use the innocent civilians to stage a fabricated chemical attack, and will then accuse the Syrian Army of committing that heinous crime. The names of the abducted Syrian civilians are set out below:

- Dr. Husam al-Din Dabis, director of the Aleppo city outpatient hospital;
- Ibrahim Khalid, from the town of Kafr Da'il, who was abducted west of Aleppo;
- Muhammad al-Shalash, from the town of Talhiyah, who was abducted south of Aleppo;
- Muhammad Hasan, from the Hass area, who was abducted south of Aleppo;
- Ziyad al-Shami, from the Damascus Ghutah, who was abducted north of Aleppo;
- Muhammad Nur al-Mahmud, from the village of Mughayr, who was abducted south of Aleppo;
- Ruqayyah Bakhuri, from the Na'urah area, who was abducted in Idlib governorate;
- Khalil al-Umar, from the Qal'at al-Madiq area, in Hama city;
- Muhammad Khadurdi, who was abducted in the Qal'at al-Madiq area of Hama;
- Abbudi Abdulnasir from the Abu al-Duhur area, who was abducted in the Ma'arr Shamsah area of south Idlib;

Please recycle

- Abdulqadir al-Hasan from the Abu al-Duhur area, who was abducted in the Ma'arr Shamsah area of south Idlib;
- Abdulhadi al-Ahmad from Aleppo city, who was abducted in the town of Sarmadah in Idlib;
- Muhammad al-Yusuf from Afas village, near Saraqib;
- Subhi al-Shaykh Hamdi and his brother Muhammad al-Shaykh Hamdi from the city of Ma'arrat al-Nu'man, who were abducted in the Jabal al-Arba'in area;
- Sa'id al-Shawwaf, from the Ma'arrat al-Nu'man area, who was abducted in the Jabal al-Arba'in area;
- Umran al-Surani of the Ma'arrat al-Nu'man area, who was abducted in the Jabal al-Arba'in area;
- Three young siblings who were abducted from a camp near the town of Taramin in Idlib.

Concurrently with those abductions, on 31 August 2018, the armed terrorist groups active in Idlib city transported quantities of sarin gas to the National Hospital in Idlib.

By drawing your attention to these ominous facts, I wish to urge the Security Council to fulfil its mandate and prerogative to maintain international peace and security by bringing pressure to bear on the Governments of those Member States that have influence with the armed terrorist groups so that they can ensure that the groups refrain from using toxic chemical substances against Syrian civilians, free these and other abductees, and guarantee their safe return to their homes and families.

You will be aware that those three States have recently been threatening to carry out just such a military attack in order to protect the terrorists of the Nusrah Front, which has been included on the lists of the Security Council as a terrorist entity, as well as other associated terrorist groups. The Security Council must intervene earnestly and transparently to maintain international peace and security and enforce its own counter-terrorism resolutions, particularly resolution 2253 (2015).

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2018/845

Security Council

Distr.: General
14 September 2018

Original: English

Implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2332 (2016), 2393 (2017) and 2401 (2018)

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report is the fifty-fifth submitted pursuant to paragraph 17 of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014), paragraph 10 of resolution 2165 (2014), paragraph 5 of resolution 2191 (2014), paragraph 5 of resolution 2258 (2015), paragraph 5 of resolution 2332 (2016), paragraph 6 of resolution 2393 (2017) and paragraph 12 of resolution 2401 (2018), in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to report, every 30 days, on the implementation of the resolutions by all parties to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic.

2. The information contained herein is based on data available to agencies of the United Nations system and from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and other relevant sources. Data from agencies of the United Nations system on their humanitarian deliveries have been reported for August 2018.

II. Major developments

Box 1
Key points: August 2018

1. Concern around the prospect of military operations in the Idlib de-escalation area grew significantly during the reporting period, with airstrikes and explosions in Idlib and Aleppo Governorates between 10 and 12 August resulting in civilian deaths and injuries. Reports were received of attacks affecting several health facilities, and school activities in a number of areas were suspended.

2. Humanitarian organizations continued to respond to needs in Idlib and across the north-west of the country, drawing on cross-border assistance channels, while coordinating readiness efforts, including the pre-positioning of aid supplies, in view of the growing threat of large-scale displacement linked to expanded military operations in the area.

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3. In the south-west of the country, the Government consolidated its control over the Dar'a and Qunaytirah Governorates, as well as the vast majority of Suwayda' Governorate. Most of the approximately 325,000 people estimated to have been newly displaced in the area since late June were reported to have returned to their areas of origin. However, as at mid-August, an estimated 60,000 people remained displaced and high levels of humanitarian needs persisted, including among returnees. The United Nations continued to provide humanitarian aid in the area in partnership with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, including through inter-agency convoys to Dar'a al-Balad on 9 August and Busra al-Sham on 16 August. However, access to many areas remained limited for United Nations humanitarian agencies and their partners.

4. In eastern Dayr al-Zawr Governorate, fighting between Syrian Democratic Forces and Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) continued to have an impact on civilians, with reports that more than 20,000 people were displaced to makeshift camps between late July and early August. Humanitarian access to many of these sites was very limited, while there were also reports that the majority of the displaced people were prevented from leaving, with exceptions only for some medical cases.

5. In eastern Ghutah, the return of displaced people and the resumption of commercial activities continued to be reported. However, the freedom of movement of civilians and access to the area for humanitarian organizations remained very limited, hindering efforts to scale up assistance and provide much-needed services, including for returnees. Humanitarian assistance continued to be channelled through the Syrian Arab Red Crescent.

6. United Nations humanitarian agencies and their partners continued to reach millions of people in need. Humanitarian assistance provided from within the country by United Nations agencies reached more than 2.37 million people with food assistance. Three inter-agency humanitarian convoys carrying life-saving relief, food and medical supplies were deployed in August to the hard-to-reach locations of Irbin and Zamalka in eastern Ghutah and Busra al-Sham and al-Balad in Dar'a Governorate, reaching a total of 75,000 people in need. In August, the United Nations delivered life-saving food assistance to more than 574,000 people through cross-border deliveries.

3. Since 24 February 2018, when the Security Council adopted resolution 2401 (2018), demanding a cessation of hostilities, military conflict has continued in many parts of the Syrian Arab Republic. During the month of August, air strikes, artillery shelling, sniper fire and ground clashes were reported in the Governorates of Aleppo, Idlib, Ladhiqiyah, Dayr al-Zawr, Hasakah, Homs, Hama, Rif Dimashq, Qunaytirah and Suwayda'. Military operations continued between the Government and allied pro-government forces and non-State armed opposition groups. Clashes occurred between government forces and the Syrian Democratic Forces in Dayr al-Zawr Governorate. In and around the Idlib de-escalation area, government forces and non-State armed opposition groups, and their respective allies, continued to build up and fortify military positions.

4. Concern regarding the prospect of large-scale military operations in the Idlib de-escalation area grew significantly during the reporting period, with airstrikes and explosions in Idlib and Aleppo Governorates between 10 and 12 August resulting in civilian deaths and injuries. Reports were received of attacks affecting several health facilities, and school activities in a number of areas were suspended.

5. A large-scale humanitarian response operation continued across Idlib and the north-west, drawing on cross-border assistance from Turkey, delivered under the framework of Security Council resolution 2393 (2017). The United Nations estimated

that some 2.1 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance in the Idlib de-escalation area, including 1.4 million internally displaced people. The United Nations and its humanitarian partners also expanded measures to prepare for the possibility of large-scale civilian displacement linked to potential military operations in the area. A readiness plan was developed, requesting $311 million to provide multisectoral assistance to up to 900,000 people who could become newly displaced in the event of a major military escalation, including up to 700,000 people expected to be accessible only through cross-border channels. However, humanitarian organizations continued to stress that a worst-case scenario in Idlib would exceed the planning figures set out in the readiness plan, resulting in needs that would overwhelm the response capacities of the United Nations and its humanitarian partners.

6. In the south-west of the country, military activity decreased significantly, with the Government having consolidated its control over the Dar'a and Qunaytirah Governorates, as well as the vast majority of Suwayda' Governorate. Most of the approximately 325,000 people estimated to have been newly displaced in the area since late June were reported to have returned to their areas of origin. However, as at mid-August, an estimated 60,000 people remained displaced and high levels of humanitarian needs persisted, including among returnees. The United Nations continued to provide humanitarian aid in the area in partnership with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, including through inter-agency convoys to Dar'a al-Balad on 9 August and Busra al-Sham on 16 August, which delivered hygiene kits, nutrition supplies and sanitary and household items for a total of 40,000 people. Some 74,000 people in Dar'a and Qunaytirah Governorates were also reached with food assistance, delivered in partnership with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent. However, access to many areas remained limited for United Nations humanitarian agencies and their partners.

7. In eastern Dayr al-Zawr Governorate, fighting continued to have an impact on civilians, with reports that more than 20,000 people were displaced to makeshift camps between late July and early August. Humanitarian access to many of these sites was very limited, while there were also reports that the majority of the displaced people were prevented from leaving to reach other areas in southern Hasakah or Raqqah, with exceptions for some medical cases. As at 25 August, 723 cases of acute diarrhoea, resulting in 12 deaths, had been reported in Dayr al-Zawr Governorate since March. The United Nations and its humanitarian partners scaled up household water chlorination and awareness-raising activities in response.

8. In eastern Ghutah, the return of displaced people and the resumption of commercial activities continued to be reported. However, the freedom of civilians to move in and out of the enclave remained restricted. Access for humanitarian organizations to the area remained very limited, hindering efforts to scale up assistance and provide much-needed services, including for returnees. Humanitarian assistance continued to be channelled through the Syrian Arab Red Crescent.

9. The humanitarian situation of some 45,000 people at the Rukban camp, on the Syrian-Jordanian border, continued to be of great concern. Several hundred families were reported to have moved out of the camp owing to poor living conditions, although such movement was possible only at a significant financial cost and with a significant security risk given the presence of armed actors along the route out of the camp. As the need for the provision of humanitarian assistance became increasingly urgent, with the last significant delivery of United Nations aid having taken place in January 2018, discussions on an inter-agency humanitarian convoy to the area continued.

10. My Special Envoy for Syria continued his diplomatic consultations in August. He met with the Secretary of State of the United States of America in Washington, D.C. on 15 August to discuss the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, including the

political process. Representatives of his office had further exchanges in Ankara, Moscow and Tehran on the establishment of a Syrian-led and Syrian-owned constitutional committee, facilitated by the United Nations within the framework of the Geneva process and in accordance with Security Council resolution 2254 (2015).

Protection

11. Despite a relative decrease in the intensity of violence, civilians continued to be severely affected by the direct and indirect consequences of hostilities. Air and ground-based strikes continued to kill and injure civilians and damage and destroy civilian infrastructure. The many civilian casualties and the scale of the destruction of civilian infrastructure remained a strong indication that violations were continuing of the fundamental rules of distinction, proportionality and precaution and, in particular, of the prohibition on the launching of indiscriminate attacks.

12. Explosive weapons continued to be fired into populated areas, killing and injuring civilians and destroying and damaging vital infrastructure. Explosive hazard contamination in populated areas killed and injured civilians and impeded humanitarian access. The use of improvised explosive devices in some areas added to the complexity of the explosive hazard threat. In areas retaken by government forces and their allies in Dar'a and Dayr al-Zawr, reports continued of civilian casualties caused by improvised explosive devices and unexploded ordnance or explosive remnants of war.

13. In Idlib and Aleppo Governorates, intermittent bombardment by government forces and their allies resulted in the killing and injuring of scores of civilians, including women and children, and the displacement of thousands of others.

14. In areas of Aleppo Governorate, infighting between non-State armed opposition groups continued to affect the well-being of civilians, owing primarily to the use of improvised explosive devices in populated areas, lawlessness and criminality, which included threats, intimidation, kidnappings and killings.

15. Fighting continued to have an impact on civilian infrastructure, including medical facilities, schools, markets and places of worship. According to information received by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), civilian casualties occurred in various governorates, possibly in violation of international humanitarian law (see annex). OHCHR has documented alleged violations committed by parties to the conflict, including government forces and their allies, non-State armed opposition groups and their allies, and Security Council-designated terrorist groups.

16. Notwithstanding the call upon the Syrian authorities by the Human Rights Council, in its resolutions S-18/1 and 19/22, to cooperate with OHCHR, including through the establishment of a field presence with the mandate to protect and promote human rights, OHCHR reporting remained limited, given that the Government had not granted it access to the country.

17. Civilians across the country also continued to be subjected to killings, arbitrary arrest and detention, deprivation of liberty, abduction, torture and inhumane, cruel and degrading treatment. OHCHR continued to receive reports of civilians being abducted or kidnapped by non-State armed opposition groups. Hundreds of men have allegedly been taken by Hay'at Tahrir Al-Sham and other non-State armed opposition groups in areas of Hama, Aleppo and Idlib Governorates under the control of non-State armed opposition groups, either for ransom or reportedly because the individuals targeted were promoting reconciliation with the Government. Of particular concern were separate incidents involving the abduction of the heads of three hospitals.

18. In one incident, an unidentified number of civilians, including young men and children, were reportedly abducted by armed groups in the villages of Zarbah in south-western rural Aleppo and Mughir in northern Hama on the afternoon of 25 August. Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) continued to hold at least 27 civilians, mainly women and children, as hostages following the group's assault on Suwayda' on 25 July. ISIL has threatened to kill them if its demands are not met by the government forces and their allies, and it has been reported that they have killed at least one of the hostages.

19. Since June 2018, more than 200 civilians have reported directly or indirectly to OHCHR that they have received official death notices for family members or relatives who had been detained at various times by the Government. All such certificates indicated that the deaths were from natural causes. A number of families stated that this was the second time that they had been notified officially of the death of their relative, while others indicated that the death certificates that they had received were dated in the 1990s, which was when their relatives had disappeared. Others said that they had become aware of the notification only when attending police or government offices for other business. Only a few bodies were returned to the families, mostly of persons who had died very recently. A number of families claim that they have been prevented from requesting an independent forensic inquest into the cause and circumstances of the deaths or are too fearful to do so.

20. The United Nations and its health partners verified several attacks affecting health-care facilities and personnel during the reporting period. On 4 August, an explosion near a hospital in Sarmin in rural Idlib caused damage to hospital windows. No casualties were reported among staff and patients. On 7 August, several persons broke into a hospital in Bdama subdistrict in Idlib and kidnapped a doctor from the facility. No actor claimed responsibility for the incident. On 10 August, airstrikes hit a dialysis centre in Kafr Nubl subdistrict in rural Idlib, damaging a pharmacy, the outer walls, oxygen cylinders and water tanks. On 10 and 11 August, heavy airstrikes near Ma'arrat al-Nu'man National Hospital resulted in hospital services being limited to emergency cases only for several days. On 22 August, an airstrike hit a hospital in Ma'arrah subdistrict. No casualties were reported. On 30 August, unidentified masked men assaulted and kidnapped a doctor and head of a local hospital in front of his home in Idlib city. The doctor was released several hours later in critical condition. Following the incident, a medical non-governmental organization (NGO) announced the temporary suspension of its activities at the hospital in question. The suspension lasted for three days, during which time the hospital continued to operate.

21. Educational facilities also continued to be affected by the conflict. On 6 August, local authorities ordered the closure of a number of private schools, including schools supported by the Christian church in Qamishli city in Hasakah Governorate. On 10 August, educational activities in Kafr Nubl and Ma'arrah in Idlib Governorate were suspended for several days owing to a heavy bombardment in the area. At least seven schools were affected by the closure.

Humanitarian access

Box 2
Key points

1. United Nations humanitarian agencies and their partners continued to reach millions of people in need, including from within the Syrian Arab Republic. Humanitarian assistance provided from within the country by United Nations agencies based in the country to regularly accessible locations in government-controlled areas reached more than 2.37 million people with food assistance.

2. Three inter-agency humanitarian convoys carrying life-saving relief, food and medical supplies were deployed in August to the hard-to-reach locations of Irbin and Zamalka, in eastern Ghutah, and ad hoc deliveries were made to Dar'a al-Balad and to Busra al-Sham, both in the southern Syrian Arab Republic. Convoys to Irbin and Zamalka and to Busra al-Sham were accompanied by the United Nations. United Nations personnel were, however, not permitted to participate in the convoy to Dar'a al-Balad because security approvals had not been received from the Syrian authorities.

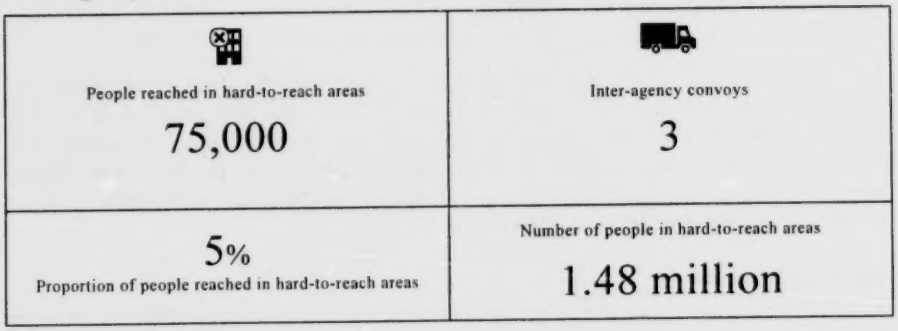
3. Cross-border assistance, authorized under Security Council resolutions 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015) and 2393 (2017), remained a vital part of the humanitarian response. In August, 319 trucks (13 consignments) delivered life-saving assistance to more than 750,000 people through cross-border deliveries. United Nations humanitarian cross-border operations through Jordan remained suspended in August.

22. Under the United Nations inter-agency convoy plan for July and August, access was requested to 25 hard-to-reach areas, with the objective of reaching 939,300 people. In August, three inter-agency convoys were authorized to deploy to the hard-to-reach locations of Irbin and Zamalka, in eastern Ghutah, and to Dar'a al-Balad and Busra al-Sham, both in the southern Syrian Arab Republic, providing multisectoral assistance to a total of 75,000 people (see table 1 and figure I).

Table 1
Inter-agency cross-line humanitarian convoys, August 2018

Date	*Location*	*Requested target (number of beneficiaries)*	*Number of beneficiaries reached*	*Type of assistance*
1 August	Irbin and Zamalka	35 000	35 000	Multisectoral
9 August	Dar'a al-Balad	Not applicable	32 500	Multisectoral
16 August	Busra al-Sham	Not applicable	7 500	Multisectoral

Figure I
Inter-agency humanitarian operations, August 2018



Humanitarian response

23. United Nations humanitarian agencies and their partners reached millions of people in need, including women and children, through all available access routes, including: (a) humanitarian operations from within the Syrian Arab Republic, whereby humanitarian deliveries reach those in need without crossing conflict lines; (b) cross-line convoys, whereby assistance from within the country is delivered across conflict lines; and (c) cross-border deliveries, whereby assistance is provided to those

in need from neighbouring countries (see tables 2 and 3). In addition to the United Nations and its partners, the Government and NGOs continued to deliver life-saving assistance to people in need. The local authorities in many areas controlled by non-State armed opposition groups also continued to provide services where possible.

24. Individual agencies continued to submit requests for single-agency deliveries to locations across the country. Such deliveries are undertaken by United Nations agencies based in Damascus to regularly accessible areas. In August, all 1,652 official requests submitted by the World Food Programme to the Syrian authorities to obtain facilitation letters for the transport of food assistance to locations across the country were approved. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) submitted 41 requests for facilitation letters for the movement of core relief items and livelihood kits, all of which were approved. More than 2 million people were reached with multisectoral support, including 412,000 children and mothers receiving primary health-care and immunization services. In addition, an estimated 117,000 children and pregnant and lactating women were provided with nutritional supplements and services. Some 134,000 children benefited from essential learning materials and remedial education, and 190,000 children benefited from protection and psychosocial support services. Around 328,000 people were reached with reproductive health and gender-based violence services supported by the United Nations Population Fund and its partners. Approximately 2.9 million people received food assistance, and 1.7 million people benefited from water, sanitation and hygiene services and supplies.

Table 2
People reached by the United Nations and other organizations through all modalities, August 2018

Organization	*Number of people reached*
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	34 000
International Organization for Migration	71 000
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	2 860 000
United Nations Children's Fund	2 000 000
United Nations Development Programme	918 631
United Nations Population Fund	328 000
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	175 000
World Food Programme	2 923 515
World Health Organization	922 000

25. Cross-border deliveries continued under the terms of Security Council resolutions 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2332 (2016) and 2393 (2017) (see figure II and table 3). In line with those resolutions, the United Nations notified the Syrian authorities in advance of each shipment, including its contents, its destination and the number of beneficiaries expected to be reached.

26. The United Nations Monitoring Mechanism for the Syrian Arab Republic continued its operations as authorized under resolutions 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015) and 2393 (2017). During the reporting period, the Mechanism monitored the delivery of 13 consignments by six United Nations agencies, consisting of 319 trucks, from three border crossings: eight from Bab al-Hawa (276 trucks), four from Bab al-Salam (39 trucks) and one from Ya'rubiyah (4 trucks). There were no concerns or questions about the humanitarian nature of the consignments sent. The United Nations provided 48-hour notice to the Government regarding all shipments. Once in

the country, United Nations partners ensured that shipments arrived at the designated warehouses. Independent third-party companies contracted by the United Nations ensured independent verification of the assistance arriving at the warehouses and monitored the distribution and/or service provision. The Mechanism continued to benefit from the excellent cooperation of the Governments of Iraq, Jordan and Turkey.

27. Since cross-border operations began in July 2014, following the adoption of resolution 2165 (2014), the United Nations has conducted more than 861 cross-border consignments, with more than 21,715 trucks (14,820 through Bab al-Hawa and 2,249 through Bab al-Salam from Turkey; 4,605 through Ramtha from Jordan; and 41 through Ya'rubiyah from Iraq). Those operations complement and support the aid provided by international and Syrian NGOs that provide services to millions more from neighbouring countries.

28. During the reporting period, humanitarian cross-border operations through Jordan remained suspended. However, the World Food Programme and its implementing partners delivered food assistance to more than 574,000 people from the two authorized cross-border entry points with Turkey. The World Health Organization also conducted health and medical deliveries, providing nearly 530,260 treatments through the cross-border mechanism. In the northern Syrian Arab Republic, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) delivered winter kits and child protection assistance, as well as nutritional, educational, health, water, sanitation and hygiene supplies, through a number of cross-border shipments. More than 57,000 people had improved access to clean water through the operation and maintenance of water and sanitation systems. Primary health-care services were provided to more than 99,000 people through mobile and fixed health services. More than 16,000 children under the age of five years, as well as pregnant and lactating women, were reached with micronutrient supplies. More than 21,000 children under the age of five years, as well as pregnant and lactating women, were screened for acute malnutrition, as a result of which 247 severely malnourished children received appropriate treatment.

29. In the southern Syrian Arab Republic, United Nations humanitarian cross-border operations were suspended in late June. Those cross-border operations remained suspended throughout the reporting period. The response of the United Nations in the southern Syrian Arab Republic included the delivery of food assistance to 73,785 people during August.

30. UNHCR and its partners continued to enhance the response to the protection needs of internally displaced persons, returnees and other crisis-affected populations. By the end of August, 1,108,921 individuals had been reached through protection interventions, including 825,168 benefiting from general protection activities, 164,296 benefiting from child protection activities and 119,457 reached through awareness-raising campaigns across 12 governorates on sexual and gender-based violence prevention and response activities. As at the end of August 2018, the total number of functioning UNHCR-funded community centres and mobile units stood at 97 community centres, 17 satellite centres and 85 mobile units, supported by 2,315 outreach volunteers. That network provided protection-related services, including community mobilization, child protection, legal aid, the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence, livelihood services and services for persons with specific needs, to benefit some 2.6 million internally displaced persons, returnees, members of host communities and other crisis-affected people across 12 governorates. In August, 138,551 internally displaced persons in Damascus, Rif Dimashq, Suwayda', Dar'a, Qunaytirah, Tartus, Ladhiqiyah, Homs, Hama, Aleppo and Hasakah were direct beneficiaries of the UNHCR legal assistance programme, including counselling; awareness sessions on legal topics, including civil

documentation and women's rights; and lawyers' direct interventions before courts and administrative bodies.

31. Moreover, the United Nations Population Fund reached some 328,000 people, carrying out activities relating to reproductive health and the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence and youth-related violence. In addition, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) distributed food parcels to some 175,000 Palestine refugees, and 9,939 Palestine refugees displaced from Yarmouk, eastern Ghutah and Dar'a received ready-to-eat food baskets in August. A total of 2,645 individuals received cash assistance through the regular cash distribution round, and 1,250 Palestine refugees displaced from Yarmouk and eastern Ghutah benefited from a one-time payment of $70 per family.

Figure II
Number of beneficiaries assisted by the United Nations and its partners by cluster through cross-border humanitarian deliveries, August 2018

(Thousands)

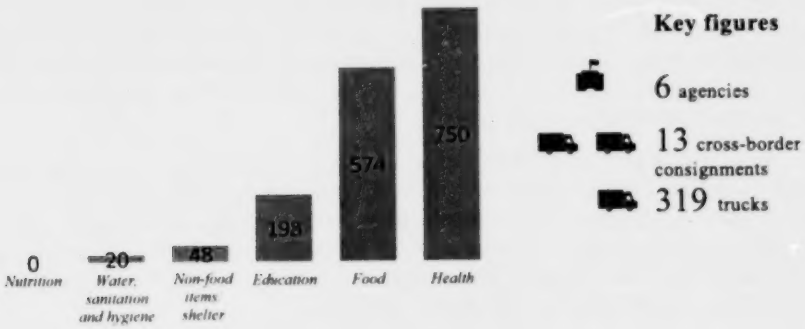


Table 3
Number of beneficiaries targeted through cross-border deliveries by sector and by district, August 2018

Governorate	*District*	*Education*	*Food*	*Health*	*Non-food items shelter*	*Nutrition*	*Water, sanitation and hygiene*
Aleppo	I'zaz	–	91 450	–	18 000	–	–
Aleppo	Jabal Sim'an	27 000	79 880	90 950	10 400	–	5 000
Hasakah	Qamishli	–	–	110 500	–	–	–
Hama	Suqaylibiyah	–	–	–	–	–	–
Idlib	Ma'arrah	–	65 600	95 710	–	–	–
Idlib	Ariha	–	30 000	79 360	–	–	–
Idlib	Harim	19 005	276 510	231 840	14 200	–	10 000
Idlib	Idlib	152 330	30 785	117 170	5 400	–	5 000
Idlib	Jisr al-Shughur	–	–	24 280	–	–	–

32. The Russian Federation sent informational bulletins to the United Nations from the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic, in which it outlined the provision of bilateral relief assistance. Other Member States also continued to provide bilateral and other forms of humanitarian assistance.

Visas and registrations

33. A total of 41 new United Nations visa requests were submitted to the Government in August. Of those, 18 were approved, 22 remained pending (taking into consideration that 14 of the requests were submitted late in August) and 1 was cancelled by the United Nations. Of the 26 previously submitted visa applications that remained pending at the beginning of the reporting period, 17 were approved in August, 8 remained pending and 1 was rejected. A total of 64 United Nations visa renewal requests were submitted in August, of which 28 were approved and 36 remained pending (taking into consideration that 22 requests were submitted late in August). Of the 39 previously submitted visa renewal requests that remained pending at the beginning of the reporting period, 35 were approved in August and 4 remained pending.

34. A total of 24 international NGOs are registered with the Government to operate in the country.

Safety and security of humanitarian personnel and premises

35. Agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system continued to implement programmes in areas affected by frequent clashes among parties to the conflict, air strikes, the regular exchange of indirect artillery fire and asymmetrical attacks. As a result of activities relating to the armed conflict, significant populated areas became highly contaminated with unexploded ordnance, explosive remnants of war and landmines, which pose an elevated risk to the implementation of humanitarian activities in those areas.

36. Since the beginning of the conflict, dozens of humanitarian workers have been killed, including 22 staff members of the United Nations and organizations of the United Nations system, 18 of whom were staff members of UNRWA; 66 staff members and volunteers of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent; and 8 staff members and volunteers of the Palestine Red Crescent Society. Many staff members of international and national NGOs have also reportedly been killed.

37. A total of 27 staff members of agencies and programmes of the United Nations system (1 staff member of the United Nations Development Programme and 26 UNRWA staff members) were detained or missing as at the end of the reporting period.

III. Observations

38. I am deeply concerned about the growing risk of a humanitarian catastrophe in in Idlib Governorate and the surrounding areas that form part of the last de-escalation zone in the Syrian Arab Republic. Close to 3 million people are currently in that area, of whom some 2.1 million are already in need of humanitarian assistance. That includes some 1.4 million people who are internally displaced, many of whom are in overcrowded camps, in which basic services have for months been stretched to breaking point. A major military operation in such a setting could create an emergency at a scale not yet seen in the more than seven years of conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic.

39. I have appealed to the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and all parties to the conflict to exercise restraint and to respect their obligation under international humanitarian law to protect civilians, who make up the vast majority of the population in Idlib and the surrounding areas. I condemn the abuses perpetrated against civilians in Idlib and elsewhere, which have included threats, intimidation, kidnappings and killings, as well as restrictions on fundamental freedoms.

40. I remind all parties to the conflict of their obligations under international humanitarian law to protect civilians and civilian objects; not to make civilian objects the target of attack and to take special care in military operations to avoid damage to buildings dedicated to education, including schools; and to respect and protect medical personnel and not to direct attacks against hospitals and other medical facilities. I recall that any use of chemical weapons is unlawful and completely unacceptable. Moreover, the parties should ensure civilians' freedom of movement and must continue to protect civilians whether they choose to move or remain.

41. Ensuring safe, rapid, unhindered and sustained humanitarian access through the most direct routes is critical to avoid a further deterioration of the humanitarian crisis. I note in that regard that cross-border humanitarian assistance continues to provide an indispensable lifeline for hundreds of thousands of people, notably in Idlib and elsewhere across the Syrian Arab Republic. I recall that, in its resolutions 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015) and 2393 (2017), the Security Council allows for cross-border assistance to be provided through the most direct routes to reach those in need. As I have stated previously, all methods of delivery are essential to the efficient and effective provision of humanitarian assistance and to ensuring a needs-based response.

42. I reiterate that the perpetrators of serious violations of international humanitarian law must be held accountable. Such a step is central to achieving sustainable peace in the Syrian Arab Republic. I reiterate my call for the situation in the country to be referred to the International Criminal Court.

43. I also call upon all parties to the conflict, all States, civil society and the United Nations system to cooperate fully with the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011, in particular by providing information and documentation.

44. As regards the persons reported missing as a result of the armed conflict, it remains incumbent on the parties to the conflict to take all measures feasible, in association with mandated international bodies, where relevant, to account for them. I am particularly concerned about the fate and well-being of persons who have been detained by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic or non-State armed opposition groups. I call upon all parties to ensure that persons deprived of their liberty are treated humanely, allowed to correspond with their families and not sentenced without previous judgment pronounced by a regularly constituted court, affording all judicial guarantees that are generally recognized as indispensable by civilized peoples.

45. In view of the serious ongoing concerns repeatedly raised by OHCHR with regard to the protection of civilians and other human rights issues in the Syrian Arab Republic, I strongly urge the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, in line with Human Rights Council resolutions S-18/1 and 19/22, to cooperate with OHCHR, including through the establishment of a field presence with the mandate to protect and promote human rights.

46. I continue to urge all parties to support my Special Envoy as he pursues his efforts to support a sustainable political solution. I continue to call upon the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and Syrian opposition actors to cooperate with the efforts of my Special Envoy to reach a political solution. The efforts of the United Nations have only one goal, which should be shared by us all: to end the suffering of the Syrian people and find a sustainable solution to the conflict in the country through an inclusive and Syrian-led political process that meets the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people, in line with resolution 2254 (2015) and the Geneva communiqué of 30 June 2012.

Annex

Reported incidents affecting civilians recorded by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, August 2018*

Aleppo Governorate

- On 10 August, at least 41 civilians, including 7 women and 20 children, were killed and dozens of civilians were injured when what was allegedly an airstrike hit a residential neighbourhood in the Urum al-Kubra area in opposition-held western rural Aleppo Governorate. The airstrike reportedly resulted in significant material damage.
- On 12 August, two adult sisters were abducted by masked armed men from their home in the Zaydiyah neighbourhood of Afrin. According to the information received, the perpetrators were alleged to be members of the military police of the non-State armed opposition groups operating in the area.
- On 13 August, one civilian woman was killed and three children were injured when an improvised explosive device, reportedly attached to a motorcycle, detonated at around 3 p.m. in the vicinity of the Grand Mosque near the Bayt al-Qanun area in Jarabulus. The device reportedly detonated close to a vehicle of the non-State armed opposition group Jabhah al-Shamaliyah.
- On 14 August, at least five civilians were captured by the military police of non-State armed opposition groups in the village of Korzileh, in the Shirawa area of Afrin district.
- On 29 August, members of non-State armed opposition groups raided the house of the Deputy Chief of the Ma'batli local council in the village of Qantarah, in the Ma'batli area of Afrin district. The perpetrators physically assaulted him and his family members then fled the area.

Ladhiqiyah Governorate

- On 7 August, unknown masked armed men abducted the health director of the Al-Sahel Hospital, near the village of Ayn al-Bayda in opposition-held rural Ladhiqiyah. The perpetrators reportedly took him from his residence inside the hospital after having beaten and handcuffed the security guards and stolen a hospital vehicle. He was released on 12 August, reportedly after a ransom was paid.

Suwayda' Governorate

- On 2 August, Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) reportedly beheaded a civilian hostage that the group had abducted from eastern rural Suwayda' on 25 July, along with several other civilians, including women and children. ISIL issued a video of the beheading, in which it identified the young man's name and village (Shabki) and demanded the release of ISIL members in the custody of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic in exchange for the release of civilian hostages being held by ISIL.

* In line with Security Council resolution 2258 (2015), the present description of incidents that are reported to have occurred during the month relates to compliance with Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014) by all parties in the Syrian Arab Republic. The information is provided without prejudice to the work of the Task Force on the Cessefire of the International Syria Support Group. The reporting is not a comprehensive listing of all violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of international human rights law that took place in the Syrian Arab Republic during the reporting period.

Dar'a Governorate

- On 2 August, six civilian men from two families from the Ma'arriyah Valley, in the Yarmouk Basin in western rural Dar'a Governorate, were arrested by government security forces during a screening process conducted in the Ma'arriyah camp for internally displaced persons. The men were reportedly internally displaced persons from Shajarah in the Yarmouk Basin who had fled that town owing to the intensified bombardment there. On the same day, at least 72 other men were reportedly arrested by government security forces in house raids in the Lajah region of north-eastern Dar'a.
- On 11 August, 10 men who reportedly had been on board buses evacuating around 500 persons (including non-State armed opposition fighters and their families, as well as civilians who had refused to reconcile with the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic) from the town of Jasim in western rural Dar'a to Idlib Governorate were arrested by Government security forces. The buses were stopped in the town of Jibab, in Dar'a, at a checkpoint controlled by members of the Air Force Intelligence, who reportedly boarded the buses with masked men, who identified the men as being ISIL affiliates. On the same day, at least 25 other men were arrested by government forces in the town of Da'il in western Dar'a Governorate for unknown reasons; 12 of those men were reportedly released a few hours later, after Russian forces allegedly reassured the local population that those found not to be linked with ISIL would be released.
- Between 4 and 16 August, nine civilians, including one woman and two children, were killed as a result of unexploded ordnance that detonated in different areas in Dar'a Governorate. On 4 August, two children were killed in the towns of Shajarah and Nahtah in eastern and western rural Dar'a.
- Between 18 and 22 August, five civilian men were reportedly arrested after their homes were raided by members of the Air Force Intelligence in the towns of Mahajjah, Uthman, Jibab and Sayda in rural Dar'a Governorate. Unconfirmed reports suggested they had been accused of affiliation with ISIL.

Dayr al-Zawr Governorate

- On 23 August, a child was killed and three other civilians were injured when unexploded ordnance detonated in the village of Kashmah in the eastern rural Albu Kamal area of eastern Dayr al-Zawr Governorate.
- On 29 August, a civilian was killed when unexploded ordnance detonated in the village of Mahkan in eastern rural Dayr al-Zawr.

Idlib Governorate

- On 2 August, at around 3 p.m., a civilian woman was killed and 10 other civilians were injured in what was allegedly an attack employing a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device that detonated in a garage area in the centre of Idlib.
- On 6, 8 and 9 August, Hay'at Tahrir Al-Sham — an Al-Qaeda affiliate — and other non-State armed opposition groups imposed curfews and captured civilians in southern and eastern Idlib Governorate and in northern rural Hama Governorate. Reportedly, hundreds of civilian men who had been accused of promoting reconciliation with the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic were captured and detained at unknown places run by Hay'at Tahrir Al-Sham and non-State armed opposition groups. Unconfirmed reports suggested that many of those detained had been released, but the Office of the United Nations High

Commissioner for Human Rights could not substantiate such reports. Non-State armed opposition groups have reportedly told the population in Idlib that they would capture anyone who called for reconciliation deals with the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic.

- On 10 August, 12 civilians were reportedly killed and 38 civilians were injured when what were alleged to be airstrikes and ground-based strikes hit areas of western and southern rural Idlib, bordering Ladhiqiyah and Hama Governorates, including the following:
  - Seven civilians, including 2 women, were killed and 23 civilians were injured in Khan Shaykhun district in southern rural Idlib
  - Three civilians, including 1 child, were killed and 2 civilians were injured, including 1 woman, in the town of Tah in Khan Shaykhun
  - Twelve civilians were injured, including 2 women and 2 children, in the area of Tamani'ah, in south-eastern Idlib
  - One civilian was injured in the town of Kafr Ayn
  - One civilian was killed in Jisr al-Shughur, in western rural Idlib
- On 11 August, a child was killed when what was alleged to be an airstrike hit the town of Tamani'ah, in Ma'arrat al-Nu'man district of southern rural Idlib.
- On 12 August, 67 persons, including at least 6 women and 10 children, were reportedly killed and 37 persons were injured in a massive explosion inside a residential building in the Bab al-Hawa neighbourhood of the town of Dana, in northern Idlib. Conflicting reports suggested that the building had either been a weapons depot that had exploded for unknown reasons, or that the explosion had occurred while non-State armed opposition groups were making improvised explosive devices inside the residential building.
- On 13 August, a woman was killed in the village of Tah and a child was killed in the village of Tahtaya, both in Khan Shaykhun district, in what were alleged to be ground-based strikes.
- On 13 August, the health director of the al-Imad Hospital in Khan Shaykhun, southern rural Idlib,H was abducted from his hospital, reportedly by members of Hay'at Tahrir Al-Sham. He was released less than 24 hours later. The reasons for his kidnapping and release are unknown.
- On 19 August, at least 13 civilian men from the villages of Salqin, Azmarin and Ma'arratmisrin in northern rural Idlib were taken from their homes after raids by Hay'at Tahrir Al-Sham. Reportedly, the men had been accused of promoting reconciliation with the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic.
- On 29 August, reportedly no fewer than 30 civilian men from the villages of Buraysah, Tall al-Shih, Halbah and Eastern Dayr in eastern rural Idlib were taken from their homes after raids by Hay'at Tahrir Al-Sham. Reportedly, the men had been accused of promoting reconciliation with the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic.
- On 30 August, between 10 and 11 p.m., the health director of the specialized surgical hospital in Idlib was abducted from his house in the city by unidentified masked armed men. Reportedly, civilians found him unconscious a few hours later on a street in the Ma'arratmisrin area, located around 9 km north of Idlib. The doctor was taken to hospital for treatment, and preliminary photographs taken of him suggested that his body bore signs of torture and abuse.

United Nations S/2018/846

Security Council

Distr.: General
17 September 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 13 September 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to attach herewith the statement issued by the spokesperson of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan on 12 September 2018 on the consultation held in Khartoum in August 2018 among the parties to the conflict in the sisterly Central African Republic (see annex).

Having brought this matter to your attention, I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Omer Dahab Fadl **Mohamed**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 13 September 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Statement concerning the Khartoum meeting among armed groups in the Central African Republic

In view of the good relations that have always existed between the two kindred countries and peoples, the Sudan hopes to bring peace and reconciliation in the Central African Republic. Accordingly, a preliminary exploratory meeting took place in Khartoum from 27 to 29 August 2018 with the participation of the Seleka and Anti-balaka armed groups in Central Africa. The meeting was held under the auspices of the President of the Republic, Omer Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir. The memorandum of understanding concluded at the end of the meeting contained an agreement to establish a joint framework for peace known as the Central African Forum. Its aims were to counter violence and extremism, end the hostilities, allow freedom of movement for civilians and trade with neighbouring States, and secure a commitment to the African Union initiative for peace and reconciliation in Central Africa.

The Sudan will continue its intensive efforts to bring peace to the Central African Republic. It emphasizes that the meeting was held in the context of the African initiative for peace and security in the Central African Republic. It reiterates its commitment to that initiative, which has been agreed upon as a framework to bring an end to the crisis.

During his visit to Beijing, President Al-Bashir met with the President of Rwanda, Paul Kagame; the current President of the African Union; the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat; and the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, Smail Chergui. He briefed them on the steps taken by the Sudan and emphasized that such steps were intended to strengthen the African Union initiative, of which they were an integral part. President Paul Kagame and the African officials welcomed the action taken by the Sudan and recognized President Al-Bashir's role in supporting the African initiative.

(*Signed*) Qarib Allah **al-Khidr**
Official spokesperson, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

United Nations S/2018/847

Security Council

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17 September 2018

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Letter dated 14 September 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Further to the letter from the United Arab Emirates Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Anwar Gargash, dated 13 June 2018 (S/2018/607) and the letters from the United Arab Emirates Minister of State for International Cooperation, Reem Al Hashimy, dated 19 June 2018 (S/2018/618) and 6 July 2018 (S/2018/675), on behalf of my Government, I write to reiterate and reinforce our commitment to a United Nations-led political process, notwithstanding the Houthis' decision to disregard the Geneva talks organized by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Martin Griffiths.

The Houthis' "no-show" rebuke to the United Nations and to a meaningful political process is a serious setback and a significant disappointment for the Yemeni people and the Coalition, who are eager to find an end to the conflict. Unfortunately, this is only the latest Houthi broken promise to re-engage in a political process since they derailed the political transition process in 2015, turned to force and triggered the humanitarian and political crisis that Yemen faces today.

However, the Coalition remains committed to supporting the efforts of the Special Envoy, and to a United Nations-led political solution, in accordance with relevant Security Council resolutions, the Initiative of the Gulf Cooperation Council and its implementation mechanism, and the outcomes of the National Dialogue Conference. We believe that this engagement is the only means for lasting peace and security in Yemen. The Coalition is ready to support new talks whenever the Special Envoy can ensure the Houthis' meaningful participation. We hope that he can achieve this soon.

What is now clear is that any potential progress at the negotiating table depends on sustaining pressure on the Houthis. The progress in liberating most of the Red Sea coast from Houthi control has been instrumental in facilitating the work of the Special Envoy; having previously refused to engage with his predecessor for two years, the Houthis would not have engaged in discussions with the Special Envoy without the urgency of losing their access to the sea, along with the supply of weapons and funds that sustains them. Accordingly, while military action should be the last resort in the Coalition's view, the liberation of Hudaydah is critical to re-engaging the Houthis in peace talks. To that end, carefully calibrated and with a clear purpose towards restarting the political process, Yemeni Government forces backed by the Coalition have now intensified military operations against the Houthis in the Hudaydah area and on other fronts.

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The Security Council and the international community also must press the Houthis. This should begin with immediate action to sever the Houthis' supply of weapons, funding and technical assistance being supplied by Iran in direct violation of Security Council resolutions 2216 (2015) and 2231 (2015). Iran provides the Houthis with some of the most sophisticated weaponry and know-how ever obtained by a non-State actor, including ballistic missiles, guided anti-ship missiles and kamikaze aerial drones, along with hundreds of thousands of landmines and improvised explosive devices that have devastating consequences for Yemeni civilians across the country.

Concurrently, it is critical for the international community to increase its pressure on the Houthis to commit to international humanitarian law. The Houthis' use of human shields, destruction of vital civilian infrastructure, mortar attacks on hospitals and water and sanitation sites, indiscriminate use of mines and firing of missiles at civilians in Saudi Arabia and oil tankers in the Red Sea must be condemned in unequivocal terms, or the muted response will be interpreted by the Houthis as tacit acceptance of these actions by the international community.

Most critically, the Coalition understands that its commitment to the well-being of the Yemeni people, humanitarian principles and international humanitarian law is more important than ever. The Coalition this year has contributed nearly $1.25 billion in unrestricted funds to the United Nations humanitarian response plan so that Yemeni civilians, especially in Houthi-seized areas, can receive desperately needed assistance. As a result, the number of people receiving United Nations food aid, for instance, has more than doubled, primarily benefiting civilians under Houthi control. This is supplemented by direct bilateral assistance to liberated and government-controlled areas. We will be working closely with the United Nations to continue progress on the 2018 humanitarian response plan and to ensure that the 2019 humanitarian response plan will materially improve the humanitarian situation.

Deconfliction is also a critical dimension of this support. The safety of civilians and humanitarian workers and the protection of civilian infrastructure remain a priority of the Coalition. Civilian casualties, let alone those of children, are unacceptable. The Coalition is committed to investigating incidents and to ensuring accountability by taking responsibility where appropriate and implementing corrective measures.

In order to set the conditions for political engagement, and to address the humanitarian crisis, all parties to the conflict must see that meaningful participation in United Nations peace talks is the only viable way forward.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the present letter to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Lana **Nusseibeh**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2018/848

Security Council

Distr.: General
17 September 2018
English
Original: Russian

Letter dated 14 September 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith information bulletins from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic for 13 and 14 September 2018 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) V. **Nebenzia**

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Annex to the letter dated 14 September 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (13 September 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The number of violations by illegal armed groups active in the Idlib de-escalation area has not decreased.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported 45 incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: 25 in Ladhiqiyah, 17 in Aleppo and 3 in Hama.

The Turkish representative office has reported four incidents of gunfire: three in Idlib Governorate and one in Hama Governorate.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides has carried out one humanitarian operation: in Dhahabiyah, Aleppo Governorate, 450 food parcels with a total weight of 1.9 tons were distributed.

In total, 1,931 humanitarian operations have been carried out. The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 3,010.36 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 42 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 92,693 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process is 2,518.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (14 September 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017. The number of violations by illegal armed groups active in the Idlib de-escalation area has not decreased.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported 29 incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: 16 in Aleppo, 10 in Ladhiqiyah and 3 in Hama.

The Turkish representative office has reported seven incidents of gunfire: four in Idlib Governorate and three in Hama Governorate.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides has carried out one humanitarian operation.

In total, 1,932 humanitarian operations have been carried out. The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 3,011.65 tons.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process is 2,518.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

United Nations S/2018/849

Security Council

Distr.: General
18 September 2018
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 16 September 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the following information:

On the evening of Saturday, 15 September 2018, the occupying Israeli authorities once again attacked the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic, in flagrant violation of Security Council resolution 350 (1974) concerning the Disengagement Agreement between the two parties, by firing missiles at Damascus International Airport and the area surrounding the Damascus International Fair. The heinous attack was carried out when the fairgrounds were at their most crowded, teeming with hundreds of thousands of civilians attending the fair. However, the Syrian air defence forces were able to shoot down most of the missiles, preventing a major massacre of civilians.

The occupying Israeli authorities' attempted attack on hundreds of thousands of visitors attending the Damascus International Fair provides incontrovertible proof that the Israeli practice of State terrorism has moved to a new level. No longer content merely to support armed terrorist groups and shield them from defeat, Israel is now deliberately violating the Disengagement of Forces Agreement and Security Council resolution 350 (1974), in addition to other Security Council resolutions and international instruments concerning counter-terrorism. The crimes, terrorism and killing of civilians perpetrated by Israel have come to rival those of the terrorist organizations Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and the so-called Nusrah Front.

The Syrian Arab Republic stresses that this dangerous and hostile behaviour on the part of Israel would not be continuing were it not for the limitless and ongoing support provided to Israel by the United States administration, and the immunity from accountability that the United States — along with the United Kingdom and France — grant Israel in the Security Council, which allows Israel to continue to practice terrorism and to threaten peace and security in the region and the world.

The Syrian Arab Republic once again calls upon the Security Council to fulfil its responsibility to maintain international peace and security. The Council must take resolute and immediate action to prevent the recurrence of Israeli aggression, and to hold Israel accountable for the acts of terrorism and crimes that it has committed against the Syrian people and for its ongoing support for terrorist organizations. Such conduct is in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, international law

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and Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 350 (1974) and 497 (1981), as well as other counter-terrorism resolutions.

I should be grateful if this letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2018/850

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 September 2018
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 17 September 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the position of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic regarding the fifty-fifth report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2332 (2016), 2393 (2017) and 2401 (2018) (S/2018/845).

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic once again expresses its regret that the authors of the Secretary-General's reports and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) continue to take a negative and politicized approach to the Syrian Arab Republic and its institutions. They continue to fall into the same errors involving major departures from their mandates, and continue to wilfully disregard the observations and concerns expressed by the Syrian Arab Republic about previous Secretariat reports.

The Syrian Arab Republic has concluded that the present report, like its predecessors, has nothing whatsoever to do with the real humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, or with what Syrians need to alleviate their suffering and harsh conditions and reinforce their resilience. The present report, like the previous one, has been used to distract international efforts from the most important element of humanitarian support for Syrians, which is combating terrorism in Syria and eliminating its sources of funding. Unfortunately, the present United Nations report is devoted to promoting the policies and agendas of certain States on the Security Council and their proxies in the region, which only has the effect of damaging the reputation and credibility of the United Nations as a whole.

The Syrian Arab Republic finds it extremely bizarre and reprehensible that the authors of these reports should continue to neglect to alert the global public to the low level of international funding being provided to the Syrian Arab Republic. They deliberately minimize the catastrophic effects of the limited amount of funding, the fact that certain donors are linking funding to political conditions that are incompatible with humanitarian action, and the negative impact all this has on the lives and humanitarian situation of Syrians. The Syrian Arab Republic stresses that the provision of adequate and unconditional support is a prerequisite for any effective implementation of the humanitarian response plan for Syrians, especially in areas liberated from terrorism to which civilians are beginning to return.

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The Syrian Arab Republic reiterates its principled position condemning the method and approach of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the authors of the present report. In particular, they continue to deliberately neglect to document the numbers of civilian casualties in Raqqah governorate in Syria, or the massive destruction suffered by that unfortunate city as a result of bombing by the "international coalition" and separatist militias allied with it. The Syrian Arab Republic wonders if OHCHR assessed whether or not operations in the city of Raqqah and elsewhere complied with considerations of proportionality, precaution and discrimination. Has OHCHR documented any of the well-known crimes and massacres committed in Syria by the "coalition", certain Western States and Turkey? Has it documented the logistical support provided by members of the "White Helmets" terrorist organization to members of the Nusrah Front and Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) terrorist organizations in the North and the South of Syria? Members of that organization have fought alongside the latter two terrorist organizations and staged a fresh farcical theatrical production so that they can claim that chemical weapons were used in Idlib, with a view to misleading world opinion and creating pretexts and rationales for Western attacks on the sovereignty of the Syrian Arab Republic.

The Syrian Arab Republic is mystified by the degree to which the authors of the report fall into line behind the campaigns being conducted by well-known Western States regarding the situation in a particular region of Syria. The most recent is the situation in Idlib governorate, where thousands of terrorists and foreign mercenaries deployed with the support of known international and regional actors are besieging that region and committing terrorism against its people.

With respect to Idlib, the Syrian Arab Republic stresses that it has become an open secret how assiduously the authors of the report are toeing the line and complying with the dictates of certain Western States that are members of the Security Council, especially when it comes to the distorted picture they continue to give of the efforts launched by the Syrian State in response to the pleas of civilians in Idlib governorate to be liberated from terrorism. Those efforts are in fact the only thing that can guarantee the return of civic stability to that governorate and the return of displaced persons and refugees to their normal lives. Such efforts are the only way to make sure that humanitarian aid intended for those civilians is delivered on a continuous basis, which is exactly what happened in other parts of Syria previously liberated from terrorism.

The Syrian Arab Republic, in keeping with its exclusive constitutional obligation and responsibility to guarantee the security, safety and protection of Syrian citizens, and its commitment to the relevant United Nations resolutions, and in particular Security Council resolution 2253 (2015), is determined to liberate Idlib governorate and other parts of Syria where terrorists or any foreign elements are deployed illegally. It will do so in full compliance with the principles of international law, international humanitarian law and human rights law. It will provide safe corridors, safe havens and basic humanitarian assistance to the citizens of that governorate. That is something that should be supported by the Secretariat and the member States, because it will restore security and safety to the lives of the citizens of that governorate.

The Syrian Arab Republic regrets the unwarranted acceptance by the authors of the farcical performances, allegations and fabrications being staged and spread by certain Western States and their proxy terrorist organization, the "White Helmets", regarding the alleged use of chemical weapons in Idlib. That has all been done in order to create pretexts for launching a new attack against the Syrian Arab Republic as part of a flagrant attempt to pressure the Syrian Government, engage in political blackmail, and prolong the terrorist war against Syria.

In that regard, the Syrian Arab Republic calls on the Secretariat to condemn threats being made by members of the Security Council and other States to launch an attack against the sovereignty of the Syrian Arab Republic. It calls on the Secretariat to demand that those States stop violating the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law that prohibit attacks or threats thereof against the sovereignty of Member States of the United Nations.

The Syrian Arab Republic once again expresses its rejection of the continuing illegitimate and irresponsible practice on the part of the authors of the report and supposed OHCHR officials of using the term "non-State armed opposition" to refer to the ISIL and Nusrah Front terrorist organizations, even though the authors are well aware that those two organizations appear on the Security Council lists relating to the Al-Qaida terrorist organization and associated individuals and entities. Those two organizations have links with numerous terrorist groups deployed in Syria, and in particular the "White Helmets" terrorist organization, which is an intelligence and logistical tool being used by certain Western States to support the Nusrah front and ISIL terrorist organizations. In particular, it is the proxy that has been assigned the task of fabricating theatrical performances to mislead global public opinion with respect to allegations relating to the use of chemical weapons in Syria. In addition, members of that organization take active part alongside those two terrorist organizations in committing terrorist acts against Syrians and their country's institutions.

The Syrian Arab Republic stresses that the Secretariat, in its reports on the humanitarian situation in Syria, should rely on experts who are capable of choosing their terminology with neutrality and in a manner consistent with legal, professional and objective considerations. Otherwise, Secretariat reports on the implementation of United Nations resolutions will turn into mouthpieces for the wishes of certain Western States that have adopted extremist positions with respect to the Syrian State.

The Syrian Arab Republic reiterates its call on the United Nations Secretariat, the Security Council and the Member States of the Organization to exert pressure on the States and regional entities that are imposing unilateral coercive economic measures against the Syrian Arab Republic, including in the very sectors most important to supporting and ensuring the basic needs of Syrians, such as health, education, energy, electricity, and so on. Such measures should be lifted immediately. The Syrian Arab Republic stresses that the continued imposition of those measures is the primary obstacle to ensuring the basic needs of the Syrian people, improving their humanitarian and living conditions, and putting in place the necessary conditions for the return of internally displaced persons and refugees to their homes and the restoration of normal life. The Syrian Arab Republic regards the failure by the authors of the report to address this important issue as, at the very least, something that might be described as "irresponsible conduct and a clear sign of lack of professionalism".

In the report under consideration, the authors endeavour to blur mandates and competences by discussing the political situation and by using numerous politicized terms. The Syrian Arab Republic rejects that approach. Such terms have nothing to do with the authors' mandate or the topic of the report, which is supposed to be about the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic.

The Syrian Arab Republic regrets that the authors of the report, in conformity with the instructions of certain Western States, are misguidedly promoting cross-border assistance. Such assistance has proven ineffective and unable to guarantee delivery to the rightful civilian recipients, and therefore, one way or another, should be regarded as indirect support for the terrorists who are seizing it, thereby helping those terrorists continue their terrorist operations in Syria.

The Syrian Arab Republic once again calls on the Security Council to stop issuing these monthly reports, which many see as a waste of time, money and human resources, and replace them with quarterly reports that are written in a professional and credible manner.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2018/851

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 September 2018
English
Original: Russian

Letter dated 17 September 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith information bulletins from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic for the period from 15 to 17 September 2018 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) V. **Nebenzia**

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Annex to the letter dated 17 September 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (15 September 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The number of violations by illegal armed groups active in the Idlib de-escalation area has not decreased.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported 33 incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: 24 in Aleppo, 7 in Ladhiqiyah and 2 in Hama.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

The Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has not carried out any humanitarian operations over the past 24 hours.

In total, 1,932 humanitarian operations have been carried out. The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 3,011.65 tons.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process is 2,518.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (16 September 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The number of violations by illegal armed groups active in the Idlib de-escalation area has not decreased.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported 32 incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: 19 in Aleppo, 12 in Ladhiqiyah and 1 in Hama.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has carried out three humanitarian operations: in Huraytil, Aleppo Governorate, 450 food parcels with a total weight of 1.9 tons were distributed; in Marrat, Dayr al-Zawr Governorate, 450 food parcels with a total weight of 1.9 tons were distributed; and in Ladhiqiyah, Ladhiqiyah Governorate, 375 food parcels with a total weight of 1.6 tons were distributed.

In total, 1,935 humanitarian operations have been carried out. The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 3,017.05 tons.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process is 2,518.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (17 September 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The number of violations by illegal armed groups active in the Idlib de-escalation area has not decreased.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported 34 incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: 25 in Aleppo, 8 in Ladhiqiyah and 1 in Hama.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

The Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has not carried out any humanitarian operations over the past 24 hours.

In total, 1,935 humanitarian operations have been carried out. The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 3,017.05 tons.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process is 2,518.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

United Nations S/2018/852

Security Council

Distr.: General
18 September 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 18 September 2018 from the Permanent Representatives of the Russian Federation and Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

We have the honour to forward to you the memorandum on the stabilization of the situation in the Idlib de-escalation area signed by the Russian Federation and the Republic of Turkey in Sochi on 17 September 2018 (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vassily **Nebenzia**
Permanent Representative
of the Russian Federation

(*Signed*) Feridun H. **Sinirlioğlu**
Permanent Representative
of Turkey

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Annex to the letter dated 18 September 2018 from the Permanent Representatives of the Russian Federation and Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English and Russian]

Memorandum on the stabilization of the situation in the Idlib de-escalation area

The Republic of Turkey and the Russian Federation, as guarantors of the observance of the ceasefire regime in the Syrian Arab Republic,

– guided by memorandum on creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic as of May 4, 2017 and arrangements achieved in the Astana Process,

– in order to stabilize the situation in the Idlib de-escalation area as soon as possible,

Have agreed on the following:

1. The Idlib de-escalation area will be preserved and Turkish observation posts will be fortified and continue to function.

2. The Russian Federation will take all necessary measures to ensure that military operations and attacks on Idlib will be avoided and the existing status quo will be maintained.

3. A demilitarized zone, 15–20 kms deep in the de-escalation area will be established.

4. The delineation of exact lines of the demilitarised zone will be determined through further consultations.

5. All radical terrorist groups will be removed from the demilitarised zone by October 15.

6. All tanks, MLRS, artillery and mortars belonging to conflicting parties will be withdrawn from the demilitarised zone by October 10, 2018.

7. Turkish Armed Forces and the military police of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation will conduct coordinated patrols and monitoring with UAVs along the boundaries of the demilitarised zone.

With a view to ensuring free movement of local residents and goods and restoring trade and economic relations:

8. Transit traffic on the routes M4 (Aleppo-Latakia) and M5 (Aleppo-Hama) will be restored by the end of 2018.

9. Effective measures will be taken for ensuring sustainable ceasefire regime within the Idlib de-escalation area. In this regard, the functions of the Joint Iranian-Russian-Turkish Coordination Center will be enhanced.

10. The two sides reiterated their determination to combat terrorism in Syria in all forms and manifestations.

Done in Sochi on September, 17, 2018 in two copies, both in English and Russian having equal legal force.

Signatures:

For the Republic of Turkey

For the Russian Federation

United Nations S/2018/853

Security Council

Distr.: General
21 September 2018

Original: English

United States of America: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and bearing in mind its primary responsibility under the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security,

Recalling its previous relevant resolutions and presidential statements addressing issues of peacekeeping,

Underscoring the importance of peacekeeping as one of the most effective tools available to the United Nations in the promotion and maintenance of international peace and security,

Reaffirming the basic principles of peacekeeping, such as consent of the parties, impartiality, and non-use of force, except in self-defence and defence of the mandate, and *recognizing* that the mandate of each peacekeeping operation is specific to the needs of the situation concerned and *underlining* that the mandates that it authorizes are consistent with the basic principles, and *reiterating* that the Security Council expects full delivery of the mandates it authorizes,

Commending the commitment of troop- and police-contributing countries and the sacrifices of uniformed and civilian personnel in implementing United Nations peacekeeping mandates in challenging environments, and reaffirming that the sustained commitment to operating in challenging environments is crucial for a peacekeeping mission's success and full implementation of all peacekeeping mandates,

Expressing grave concern about the security threats and targeted attacks against United Nations peacekeepers in many peacekeeping missions that constitute a major challenge to United Nations peacekeeping operations, and condemns in the strongest terms killing of and all acts of violence against United Nations personnel, which may constitute war crimes,

Honouring the heroic work of tens of thousands of United Nations uniformed and civilian peacekeeping personnel, underscoring that the United Nations should not let the performance failures of a few tarnish the achievements of the whole,

Welcoming efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General to mobilize all partners and stakeholders in support of more effective United Nations peacekeeping through his initiative "Action for Peacekeeping", to include advancing political solutions, strengthening protection of civilians, improving the safety and security of peacekeepers, supporting effective performance and accountability, strengthening the

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impact of peacekeeping on sustaining peace, improving peacekeeping partnerships, and strengthening the conduct of peacekeeping operations and personnel,

Recalling the report on "Improving Security of United Nations Peacekeepers", which highlights the link between the safety and security of peacekeepers and performance, and its plan of action, and recognizing that deficiencies in training, equipment and performance can increase risks to the safety and security of peacekeepers, including leading to increased risk of fatalities,

Underscoring the need to enhance the overall effectiveness and efficiency of United Nations peacekeeping through improved integrated mission planning, including threat assessments of violence against civilians and United Nations personnel, increasing the numbers and fulfilment of pledges of capabilities and enablers, and increasing overall mission performance,

Recognizing that realistic mandates and adequately resourced missions, deployed uniformed and civilian peacekeeping personnel that are willing, capable and equipped to effectively and safely implement their mandate, and strong leadership at all levels, including mission leadership, are essential to peacekeeping performance,

Stressing the importance of identifying gaps that have an impact on mandate delivery, improving provision of support services to field personnel, addressing systemic issues, and making recommendations on incorporation of lessons learned and best practices, in close cooperation with troop- and police-contributing countries and senior leadership, both in the field and at Headquarters,

Underscoring the link between performance and safety and security of uniformed and civilian peacekeeping personnel and *recognizing* that institutionalizing a culture of performance in UN peacekeeping will contribute to better delivery of peacekeeping mandates, as well as lead to improvements in the safety and security of peacekeepers,

Acknowledging the importance of data to inform objective decision-making to improve the performance of UN peacekeeping, taking into account the unique conditions of individual missions, *and recalling* resolutions 2378 (2017) and 2382 (2017) and their request of the Secretary-General to ensure that data related to the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations, including peacekeeping performance data, is used to improve analytics and the evaluation of mission operations, based on clear and well identified benchmarks for mandate implementation and *emphasizing* the need to regularly review all peacekeeping operations, and *welcoming* the work already initiated by the Secretariat in the setting up of a comprehensive and integrated performance policy framework measuring performance based on data collection and analysis,

Recalling the importance of the role of UN peacekeeping operations in protecting civilians, where mandated, and expressing strong concern regarding continued instances of underperformance, including, inter alia, inaction in the face of, in particular, imminent threats of physical violence against civilians, insufficient contingency planning to react to violence, conduct and discipline issues, risk averse leadership, lax force protection standards, inadequate operational readiness and preparedness, and inadequate integrated planning, and also *noting with concern* instances in which national caveats may have a detrimental effect on mandate implementation and performance,

Encouraging further coordination between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations on strengthening peacekeeping performance,

Welcoming the contribution of peacekeeping operations to a comprehensive strategy for sustaining peace, and *noting with appreciation* the contributions that peacekeepers and peacekeeping missions make to peacebuilding,

Expressing deep concern about the serious and continuous allegations and underreporting of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations peacekeepers and non-United Nations forces authorized under a Security Council mandate, including military, civilian and police personnel, and underscoring that sexual exploitation and abuse, among other crimes and forms of serious misconduct, by any such personnel is unacceptable, and *commending* the troop- and police-contributing countries that have taken steps to prevent, investigate and hold accountable their personnel for acts of sexual exploitation and abuse,

Recalling its resolution 2242 (2015), recognizing the indispensable role of women in United Nations peacekeeping and *welcoming* efforts to incentivise greater numbers of women in military, police and civilians deployed in United Nations peacekeeping operations, and *noting* the importance of increasing the number of women in leadership, and of ensuring that the needs and participation of women are integrated in all stages of mission planning and implementation through the inclusion of appropriate gender technical expertise,

Taking into account its critical role in strengthening United Nations peacekeeping and *stressing* the importance of effectively promoting international peace and security, and that posture, behaviour, leadership, initiative, and accountability need to improve at all levels both at Headquarters and in the field,

1. *Reaffirms* its support for the development of a comprehensive and integrated performance policy framework that identifies clear standards of performance for evaluating all United Nations civilian and uniformed personnel working in and supporting peacekeeping operations that facilitates effective and full implementation of mandates, and includes comprehensive and objective methodologies based on clear and well defined benchmarks to ensure accountability for underperformance and incentives and recognition for outstanding performance, including, inter alia, innovative and effective training, exceeding operational standards, delivery of key enabling capacities, excellence in the provision of mission support functions, demonstrated progress in mandate delivery, and committed and proactive leadership, and that specifies measures for performance accountability that include a range of responses proportionate to the identified performance failures, including, as appropriate, transparent public reporting, withholding reimbursement, and repatriating or replacing units, including the possibility of replacement by units from another troop- or police-contributing country from the Peacekeeping Capabilities Readiness System (PCRS), as well as revocation of delegated authorities, performance improvement plans, training, change of duties, or dismissal or non-renewal of contracts for civilian personnel;

2. *Recognizes* that the effective implementation of peacekeeping mandates is the responsibility of all stakeholders and is contingent upon several critical factors, including well-defined, realistic, and achievable mandates, political will, leadership, performance and accountability at all levels, adequate resources, policy, planning, and operational guidelines, and training and equipment;

3. *Urges* all troop- and police-contributing countries to meet UN performance standards for personnel, training, and equipping, and to support the effective implementation of mandated tasks while maintaining the highest standards of conduct, *further urges* all civilian mission components and Secretariat staff supporting peacekeeping operations to meet performance standards and comply with staff regulations, *notes* the efforts of the Secretary-General to develop a comprehensive performance assessment system to help troop- and police-contributing

countries meet United Nations performance standards, and *calls upon* all stakeholders to support these efforts;

4. *Reaffirms* the importance of adhering to the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy in providing United Nations peacekeeping-related support to non-United Nations security forces in line with the Charter of the United Nations;

5. *Recognizes* the need for enablers to bolster peacekeeping performance and *calls on* the Secretary-General to continue efforts to ensure that United Nations peacekeeping missions have effective operational command and control architectures, necessary, capable and efficient enablers including airlift, medical and casualty evacuation, and adequate medical support facilities and qualified personnel;

6. *Emphasizes* the primary responsibility of host countries for the protection of civilians, and *affirms* the need for peacekeeping missions with a mandate that includes the protection of civilians to ensure full mandate implementation, and underlines that where mandated, peacekeepers are authorized to use all necessary means, which includes the use of force when required, in order to protect civilians under threat of physical violence, in accordance with mission mandates, the United Nations Charter and other applicable international law, and *stresses* the importance of continued and further engagement by senior mission leadership, with a view to ensuring that all mission components and all levels of the chain of command are properly informed of, trained for, and involved in the mission's protection of civilians mandate and their relevant responsibilities;

7. *Recognizes* the role of United Nations peacekeeping operations in the protection of women and children, and the crucial role of protection-related personnel such as women protection advisers and child protection advisers in mainstreaming of protection and leading monitoring, prevention, and reporting efforts in missions;

8. *Calls* on the Secretary-General to ensure United Nations peacekeeping missions have capable and accountable leadership, including through improving transparent selection processes that are based on merit, competence, and the needs of the mission, improving training and mentoring programs for selected and prospective leadership, and developing a cadre of experienced future candidates for senior leadership positions, and recalls that the paramount consideration in this regard shall be the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence, and integrity, and that due regard shall be paid to the importance of recruiting on as wide a geographical basis as possible;

9. *Welcomes* the commitment of Member States to support improved training and capacity building activities to strengthen peacekeeping, including, inter alia, predeployment training and assessments, triangular partnerships, co deployments, and smart pledging, and *encourages* further activities in this regard, and *welcomes* the Secretary-General's commitment to implement a light coordination mechanism, within existing resources, to facilitate improved training and capacity building activities between Member States, to include troop- and police-contributing countries, providers of training and capacity building, and the United Nations, and *encourages* this mechanism to be made operational as soon as possible, and *further encourages* Member States to engage with this mechanism;

10. *Welcomes* initiatives of the Secretary-General to conduct Special Investigations into issues related to the performance of troop, police, and civilian personnel, including with regard to protection of civilians, and *requests* the Secretary-General to act with urgency to initiate these Special Investigations into alleged instances of significant performance failures and *underlines* the importance of improving the methodology of the investigations and transparency of the findings of such investigations, as well as the potential of these Special Investigations to facilitate

further engagement and dialogue between the United Nations, troop- and police-contributing countries, and other relevant stakeholders to improve performance and inform decisions regarding mandate design;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide detailed reporting on the findings and implementation plans of Special Investigations to the Security Council and relevant Member States, as appropriate, to include recommendations to address all factors contributing to any identified failures, as well as accountability measures, as appropriate, for uniformed and civilian components, including mission leadership and mission support personnel, including, as appropriate, remedial training and repatriation or dismissal of personnel;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that decisions to recognize and incentivize outstanding performance and decisions regarding deployment, remediation, training, withholding of financial reimbursement, and repatriation of uniformed or dismissal of civilian personnel, are predicated on objective performance data, and *calls for* greater utilization of the PCRS to ensure the recruitment and retention of qualified uniformed personnel, and *further calls on* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to improve analytics and evaluation of mission operations through implementation of the Operational Readiness Assurance and Performance Improvement Policy and commensurate policies for police in peacekeeping missions;

13. *Welcomes* the Secretary-General's initiative to undertake regular strategic reviews of peacekeeping missions, including those at the request of the Security Council, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure relevant findings of future Secretary-General commissioned reviews are shared with the Security Council and, as appropriate, relevant Member States, alongside the Secretary-General's integrated analysis, strategic assessment and frank advice;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in reports to the Security Council on individual peacekeeping operations, a summary of actions taken to improve mission performance and address performance challenges including lapses in leadership, national caveats that negatively affect mandate implementation effectiveness, and demanding operational environments, as well as any actions taken in line with paragraph 12 above;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council on instances of outstanding performance in order to highlight best practices and promote their widespread adoption, and *encourages* the Secretary-General to apply risk and enabling premiums to eligible troop- and police-contributing countries, and to advance public recognition of outstanding performance, including to raise awareness of the importance of peacekeeping in the promotion and maintenance of international peace and security, as well as of the significance and sacrifice of peacekeepers and troop- and police-contributing countries;

16. *Underscores* that any form of sexual exploitation and abuse is unacceptable and *reaffirms* its support for the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse, and *welcomes* the Secretary-General's victim-centred approach and the Secretary-General's measures to strengthen the prevention, enforcement and remediation efforts against all forms of sexual misconduct, and *reiterates* its request to the Secretary-General to include a section on adherence to his zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse in all his reporting to the Security Council, both thematic and country-specific, and *urges* all troop- and police-contributing countries to redouble their efforts to take the steps necessary to vet and train their personnel and conduct investigations of allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by their personnel and take appropriate steps to hold accountable those responsible, and *recognizes* the need to make further visible and measurable improvement on addressing sexual exploitation and abuse;

17. *Expresses* concern regarding allegations of sexual harassment in peacekeeping operations, and *affirms* its support for the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy on all forms of sexual harassment;

18. *Encourages* Member States, as appropriate, to provide training to peacekeeping personnel to be deployed in United Nations peacekeeping operations on issues related to sexual violence in conflict, trafficking in persons in the context of armed conflict, and gender expertise, and to ensure that these considerations are fully integrated, as appropriate, into performance and operational readiness standards, and *further encourages* Member States to nominate individual military and police personnel to act as focal points on these areas;

19. *Recalls* its resolution 2242 (2015) and its request that the Secretary-General initiate, in collaboration with Member States, a revised strategy to double the numbers of women in military and police contingents of United Nations peacekeeping operations by 2020 and further requests that this strategy ensures the full, effective and meaningful participation of women in all aspects of peacekeeping, and that this revised strategy is presented to the Security Council by March 2019;

20. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

United Nations S/2018/854

Security Council

Distr.: General
11 September 2018

Original: English

Credentials of the alternate representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the Security Council

Report of the Secretary-General

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received a letter dated 11 September 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations stating that Ms. Clelia Uhart has been appointed alternate representative of the United Kingdom on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, that letter constitutes adequate provisional credentials.

18-15488 (E) 200918

Please recycle

United Nations S/2018/855

Security Council

Distr.: General
12 September 2018

Original: English

Credentials of the alternate representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the Security Council

Report of the Secretary-General

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received a letter dated 12 September 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations stating that Mr. Alistair Robert Steven Kelsey has been appointed alternate representative of the United Kingdom on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, that letter constitutes adequate provisional credentials.

18-15541 (E) 200918

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United Nations S/2018/856

Security Council

Distr.: General
17 September 2018

Original: English

Credentials of the alternate representative of Sweden on the Security Council

Report of the Secretary-General

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received a letter dated 17 September 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations stating that Ms. Louise Oftedal has been appointed alternate representative of Sweden on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, that letter constitutes adequate provisional credentials.

18-15555 (E) 210918

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United Nations S/2018/857

Security Council

Distr.: General
17 September 2018

Original: English

Credentials of the representative of the United States of America on the Security Council

Report of the Secretary-General

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received a letter dated 17 September 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations stating that Mr. James Jeffrey will represent the United States of America at the 8355th meeting of the Security Council, to be held on 18 September 2018.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, that letter constitutes adequate provisional credentials.

18-15660 (E) 240918

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United Nations A/ES-10/795–S/2018/858

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
24 September 2018

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventy-third year

Identical letters dated 19 September 2018 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I regret to inform you that, in the absence of any serious measures of accountability to bring an end to its more than half-century occupation, Israel, the occupying Power, continues with its deliberate and systematic breaches of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, grossly violating the human rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to life and liberty, and methodically destroying the two-State solution for peace.

For the twenty-sixth week in a row, Palestinian civilians, including women, men and children, in the Gaza Strip, have continued to exercise their fundamental rights of expression, assembly and association by peacefully protesting in the context of the "Great Return March" against Israeli occupation, blockade, oppression and dispossession. These civilian protests continue to be met with lethal force by the occupying Power, in utter violation of international law and in grave breach of Israel's responsibilities and obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Israeli occupying forces have persisted with their use of live weaponry against these civilians, with the clear aim of repressing the protests and silencing their calls for freedom and justice. In the span of 24 hours, on 17 and 18 September, the Israeli occupying forces killed four Palestinians in Gaza, including peaceful protesters, and injured 26 other Palestinians with gunshot wounds. Those killed were Mohammed Ahmad Abu Naji, age 34, Ahmad Mohammed Muhsin Omar, age 20, Naji Jamil Abu Assi, age 18, and Alaa Ziyad Abu Assi, age 21. Also, on 15 September, a 16-year-old boy, Suhaib Abu Kashif, succumbed to wounds he sustained on 3 August when Israeli forces shot him with a live bullet that severed his spinal cord.

This brings the total number of Palestinians killed since the Great Return March began on 30 March to at least 174 Palestinians, including children, and the total number of injured to more than 18,000 persons.

Such intentional killing and injuring of Palestinian civilians has been a trademark of the Israeli occupation and its soldiers, who routinely engage in brutalizing and terrorizing the Palestinian civilian population. In occupied East Jerusalem, occupying forces shot dead a Palestinian man from the Qalandiya refugee

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camp, Mohammed Yousef Alayan, age 26, while he was defending himself from an Israeli settler, and prevented medics from reaching his body. Also, during the early hours of the morning on 18 September, Israeli forces stormed the Arimawi family home in the village of Bayt Rima, violently assaulted Mohammed Zaghloul Arimawi, age 24, while he was still in bed, ripped his clothes off, savagely beat him until he lost consciousness, then transported him to a detention facility where he died a few hours later.

Mohammed's death is the latest addition to a long list of crimes committed by the occupying Power, including against Palestinian detainees and prisoners, so many of whom are subjected to physical and psychological torture, direct execution and deliberate medical neglect. Such illegal and inhumane practices have caused, since 1967, the death of at least 217 Palestinians in Israeli custody.

Against this backdrop of intentional killings, Israel also continues its pursuit of other illegal measures aimed at suffocating the rest of the Palestinian civilian population and depleting their coping capacities. This is proved daily through the imposition of unlawful and destructive colonial policies intended to impose widespread misery and displace and ethnically cleanse Palestinian inhabitants off their native lands.

Such systematic violations include, inter alia, the continued construction and expansion of Israeli settlements and the construction of the Wall in Occupied Palestine, including East Jerusalem — with settlement construction starts having increased threefold in the second quarter of 2018 — as well as the demolition of Palestinian homes and properties; forced evictions of families and communities; land confiscation; the fragmentation of the territory and imposition of an apartheid regime, including through hundreds of checkpoints and a permit regime institutionalizing racist and discriminatory policies against Palestinians; and the imprisonment, detention and torture of thousands of Palestinians, even for simply engaging in peaceful protest against this vile and illegal foreign occupation.

All of this is being committed by the occupying Power in grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention and the Charter of the United Nations, countless relevant United Nations resolutions and all human rights instruments, amounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity. While it is nearly impossible to document every violation, whether committed by the Israeli Government or its occupying forces or illegal settlers, the incidents described below are only two recent examples of such daily and constant brutality meted out by Israel, the occupying Power, against our people.

On 18 September in occupied East Jerusalem, hundreds of extremist Israeli settlers protected by Israeli so-called police and occupying forces stormed Haram al-Sharif, carrying out provocative tours in the mosque's courtyards. The Israeli forces assaulted Palestinian worshippers, mosque guards and staff and detained five Palestinians, while four Palestinians required hospitalization following violent beatings.

We call once again for the cessation of all provocations, incitement and aggression against Haram al-Sharif and call for respect for the sanctity of this holy site. Israel, the occupying Power, must also respect the historic status quo at this sacred site and cease all actions that are inflaming the situation and risk exacerbating heightened religious sensitivities, with potentially grave consequences.

I have also repeatedly highlighted the worrying and urgent case of Khan al-Ahmar in past letters in an ongoing attempt to draw international attention to the imminent demolition and ethnic cleansing of the village by occupation forces and as an appeal for action to prevent this war crime.

In follow-up to my previous letter in this regard, I must inform you that Israel has begun implementing its plans to forcibly expel the 181 inhabitants of Khan al-Ahmar and destroy the entire village, including all Palestinian civilian and livelihood structures. The explicit intent of these criminal and cruel acts is to erase and eradicate the Palestinian presence and continuity on the land and to facilitate Israel's illegal settlement expansion in the area, in grave breach of international law and numerous United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolution 2334 (2016), with the ultimate aim of destroying the territorial contiguity of the occupied West Bank and the physical possibility of the two-State solution.

Faced with such threats, dozens of Palestinian, Israeli and international human rights activists have stood firm, spending nights in Khan al-Ahmar in support of the vulnerable Bedouin community. The international community, including through the United Nations and the European Parliament, has expressed its condemnation of Israel's reckless behaviour and warned that the demolition of Khan al-Ahmar and the forcible transfer of its inhabitants would amount to a war crime.

In this regard, in a statement made today, Eid Abu Khamis, Community Leader of Khan al-Ahmar, stressed the families' fears that the only home they had ever known for 53 years would be demolished and acknowledged that international support over past years was likely among the only reasons why the community had so far survived demolition threats, underscoring the importance of international insistence on respect for international law. Moreover, he stressed the community's position: "We want to stay where we are or go back to our own lands in the Naqab Desert, which our family was forced out of by Israel in 1952. We love living in the desert and we don't want to give up our Bedouin culture or our way of life, to have to go and live in a town, next to a garbage dump or sewage plant."

While we welcome the international expressions of support, it is clear that they must be urgently complemented with concrete action if Khan al-Ahmar and the future of the two-State solution are to be salvaged. Calls for respect for the rule of law need to be followed by concrete action to hold perpetrators accountable, ensure respect for international law and prevent the recurrence of such crimes. This is essential vis-à-vis the Israeli government, which has claimed in a recent letter to the Israeli "Supreme Court" that it is "allowed to ignore the directives of international law in any field it desires", admitting that it considers itself as a State above the law.

We reiterate our call to the international community, particularly the Security Council, to fulfil its responsibilities, including with regard to ensuring the protection of civilians in all circumstances. As we have stated in the past, the Palestinian people cannot remain the exception to the international commitments to and obligations under international law, including to protect civilians from such atrocities and grave breaches.

Simultaneously, the Security Council must exert serious efforts to uphold its Charter duty for the maintenance of international peace and security and must act forthwith to implement its relevant resolutions. Only this will take us beyond crisis management and contribute to the realization of a genuine solution that brings an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967, justly resolves all core issues, including the plight of the Palestine refugees, in line with the relevant United Nations resolutions, and enables the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights, including to self-determination in an independent and sovereign State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 646 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 7 September 2018 (A/ES-10/789-

S/2018/823), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine
to the United Nations